



TODAY

Could you ever be just good friends with a married man?

Page 19

PLUS MEDIA WITH RAYMOND SNODDY



IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

I think I'd rather have malaria

Matthew Parris in WEEKEND



Painted ladies of the stage

the times



Irish police foil terrorists planning to wreck Grand National and peace talks

Aintree goes on alert after bomb find

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND RICHARD EVANS

SECURITY at tomorrow's Grand National will be the tightest ever seen at a sporting event in Britain after Irish police yesterday intercepted a massive car bomb bound for the mainland.

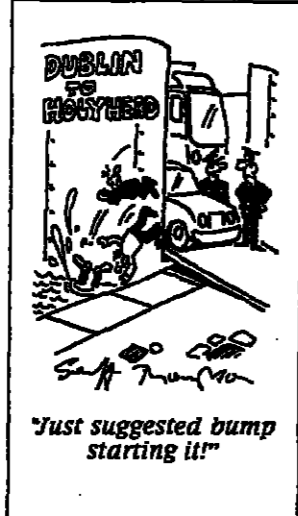
The discovery of the 1000lb bomb in car about to board a ferry at Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, prompted immediate fears that the Aintree race was a terrorist target for the second year in a row. Last year's steeplechase was abandoned after the IRA orchestrated an elaborate bomb hoax, causing chaos throughout Merseyside.

Racegoers arriving at the course yesterday were subjected to multiple searches by the 500 police officers and 800 security staff on duty. Only authorised motorists were allowed into the main car parks and officers with dogs searched each vehicle. The car park in the centre of the course has been closed.

Superintendent Ray Revell-Johnston of Merseyside police, who was in charge of the operation, said: "Events in Ireland today were a timely reminder and give us justification for the action we are taking. We have developed this plan from the events of last year."

The cost of the operation is being met by Aintree racecourse, which receives a grant from the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

At about 6.30am yesterday armed detectives from the Irish anti-terrorist Emergency Response Unit surrounded a red BMW carrying nearly 1,000lb of home-made explosives as it waited to board a Stena Line ferry to Holyhead.



The stolen car had false Irish number plates.

The bomb, similar to the London Docklands bomb of 1996, was ready to be primed. Alongside the explosives were detonators, timing devices and Semtex boosters to maximise the explosion. Chief Superintendent Culhane said it was "one of the biggest that has ever been found" and would have caused "massive damage". The driver, a man from County Kildare, was arrested.

The bomb was clearly the work of republican terrorists seeking to destabilise the Stormont peace talks as they enter their crucial final week. Two IRA splinter groups are actively pursuing that goal. One has formed in recent months around dissidents - including the former quartermaster general - who resigned from the IRA last autumn. The other is the Continuity IRA, which last

September threatened to export its bombing campaign to Britain.

Police said the arrests were part of an "ongoing security operation" and refused to comment on reports that the arrested man had been under surveillance for several days. Chief Superintendent Culhane said his men had been instructed to look out for BMWs and four-wheel-drive vehicles as these cars had been used in recent bombings.

Last night Scotland Yard sources said the driver was Irish but had previously lived in London. He had a record for petty crime, but had not been suspected of terrorist links.

An attack on the mainland has been expected for some time, but the sources added that there was no evidence found in the BMW to suggest that Aintree was the target.

Extra anti-terrorist patrols have been on duty in London for months against the possibility that attacks would be mounted. MI5, Special Branch and anti-terrorist officers have also been maintaining surveillance against reconnaissance operations.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, thanked the police. She said the terrorists were determined to wreck the peace process, but participants at the talks were equally determined they should not succeed. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, criticised a "stupid" bomb plot that had "no part in the search for peace" and would be seized on by Sinn Fein's opponents.

Grand National, pages 46-52



John McCrick, the television commentator, is searched by one of the 500 police officers at Aintree yesterday

Leaders locked in crisis talks

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND MARTIN FLETCHER

TONY BLAIR and Bertie Ahern went into a second night of crisis talks on the Northern Ireland peace process at Downing Street last night, with the British Prime Minister rejecting claims that it was on the verge of collapse.

Mr Blair, who held telephone talks during the day with some of Ulster's political leaders, made plain to the Cabinet that he was "stubbornly optimistic" about a settlement, even though the noises from Dublin and Belfast were deeply pessimistic.

At the heart of the dispute is the Irish Prime Minister's demand that the

proposed North-South authority covering policies affecting the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland should have decision-making rather than advisory powers. He has declared that he cannot compromise further. "We now need other parties to make moves," Mr Ahern said. "I hope Prime Minister Blair can use his influence to make those other parties do so. David Trimble [leader of the Ulster Unionists] needs to know that my compromises are completed."

Mr Trimble himself said that the differences between the two Governments could push back next week's April 9 deadline for an agreement at the talks. He accused the Irish Government of "posturing" and said that cross-border

bodies with legislative powers of the sort demanded by Mr Ahern were "quite out of range of any settlement". He accused Dublin of hardening its position at Sinn Fein's behest.

The man charged with running the talks will today press on with the process. Senator George Mitchell is to give the parties his own first draft of a proposed settlement, although it will contain only tentative language on the issues that divide the parties and Governments.

In spite of Mr Ahern's remarks, Irish officials tried to play down the difficulties, saying the two men had surmounted similar problems before. David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, predicted a swift end to the rift.

Royals seek to retain Diana letters

By DANIEL MCGRODY

THE Royal Family is facing an embarrassing court battle over ownership of intimate letters from Diana, Princess of Wales, allegedly stolen from her former lover James Hewitt.

Police officers and lawyers spent yesterday at Kensington Palace with the Princess's staff deciding what to do about the bundle of 62 handwritten notes sent to the former army major while the Princess was still married.

The Princess's family want to hold onto the letters to protect her reputation, but has been warned by lawyers that Mr Hewitt has a legal right to ask for their return. The letters, which the Princess once called "a ticking time bomb" allegedly were taken from a safe in his Devon home by his Italian fiancée and offered to a tabloid newspaper for £150,000.

Friends of Mr Hewitt, who is on business in Spain, say that he is almost certain to demand the return of the letters, dated between 1989 and 1991 when his relationship with the Princess was at its most intense.

Detectives visited his home at Bratton Clovelly yesterday and last night a joint investigation by Scotland Yard and Devon and Cornwall police began after a formal complaint of theft was made.

The police would not say officially who made the complaint. However it is believed that Mr Hewitt contacted his lawyers and asked them to report the theft. Kensington Palace refused to say last night what it intends to do with the letters which, under the terms of the Princess's will, should pass to her two sons, Princes William and Harry.

Three trustees, the Princess's mother, sister and the Bishop of London with John Major, who has a guardianship role for the two Princes' financial interests, will be consulted about what to do with the letters.

One source close to the Royal Family said last night: "It is very uncertain about what happens next. Clearly there is no desire to get into a public slanging match about these letters."

Lawyers believe that the Princess's estate retains copyright over the content of the letters. However, experts say that Mr Hewitt, 39, would be likely to win a court battle for the letters' return.



Hewitt away on business in Spain

Marcus Binney, page 6

Britain may face £60m bill for Nazi victims

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL EDITOR

BRITAIN is to apologize today for its unsympathetic treatment of Nazi victims who lost assets held in British banks during the Second World War.

The Government will pave the way for at least 25,000 people or their heirs to make claims against Britain which could amount to as much as £60 million at today's prices.

An initial £2 million has been put forward by the Department of Trade and Industry to set up a formal claims procedure, but Government sources made it clear last night that the amount was not capped.

In a gesture that surprised Jewish groups which have long campaigned for such an outcome, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, also offered an apology for the past behaviour of the

Maurice Papon, the former Vichy official, was convicted yesterday of complicity in crimes against humanity for his role in deporting Jews to Nazi extermination camps during the Second World War. Guilty verdict. Page 15. Leading article. Page 23

Government. Her remarks coincide with the publication today of a report by Foreign Office historians analysing British policy towards enemy property during and after the war. She said: "Some of the documents examined show that although these schemes were well-intentioned, those who dealt with these matters after the War were sometimes insensitive to the plight of Nazi victims."

"The present Government deeply regrets this, and I

would like to apologize to these individuals and to their relatives and descendants. A different attitude would be expected now."

The decision was finalised yesterday after pressure, including an editorial in *The Times*, for the Government to pay back money legitimately owed. Initial suggestions for the creation of a £2 million hardship fund or charity were considered unacceptable.

Lord Janner of Brinsford, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust which campaigned for a formal claims procedure, said the 25,000 names for which records still existed represented only a tenth of the total number of people whose assets were frozen in British banks.

The list of people whose records are still held by the Government are to go on the Internet, and advertisements will appear worldwide.

Planners drive cul-de-sac into suburban impasse

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE cul-de-sac has reached a dead end. The road to nowhere, which has turned nearly every major housing development since the late Seventies into a baffling maze, is to be discouraged under government plans to return to more traditional street layouts.

In future, council planners will be encouraged to design schemes with a network of roads, providing a variety of routes through new developments. Developers who fail to adjust will be less likely to win planning permission. The changes are designed to encourage pedestrians and cyclists.

The ideas will be outlined in a guide for developers, planners and highway authorities to be published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Re-

gions in May. The guide, called *Places, Streets and Movement* has been prepared by London-based consulting engineers Alan Baxter & Associates. It will propose developments along the lines of the Prince of Wales's scheme for new houses in Poundbury, on the edge of Dorchester.

Robert Thomas, a senior associate, said: "The aim is to see new schemes designed in a way that responds to the local context. The problem with the cul-de-sac is that it is a road-dominated layout, applied as a standard formula across the country."

The guide will be a companion to *Design Bulletin 32* - a street-layout code implemented 21 years ago and used extensively by engineers and planners - from which the current cul-de-sac culture de-

rives. The changes are part of a wider government goal of reducing car dependence. A White Paper on "integrated transport" will be published shortly which is expected to address ways of promoting walking and cycling.

The cul-de-sac shot to fame with the rise of Channel Four's *Brookside*, which follows the often tempestuous fortunes of the residents of Brookside Close in Liverpool.

Phil Redmond, the creator and executive producer of *Brookside*, said: "Brookside's cul-de-sac gives the show its own sense of identity. It becomes a community in its own right. It allows the plot to be more inward-looking than if it was shot on a through-street."

TV & RADIO	50, 51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
MATTHEW PARRIS	22
ARTS	35-38
CHESS & BRIDGE	48
COURT & SOCIAL	24
SPORT	46-50, 52
STYLE	20
LAW REPORT	39

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$10; Belgium 8 Ffrs 100; Canada \$3.50; Denmark Dkr 32; France Ffr 40; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 650; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4,400; Luxembourg Lfr 80; Madeira Esc 350; Malta M 2,400; Morocco Dir 30,000; Norway Kr 22,000; Portugal Con Esc 350; Spain Ptas 325; Sweden Skr 25,000; Switzerland S Ffr 5.00; Tunisia Din 3,200; USA \$3.50.



This Sunday, organise a mortgage quicker than you can read the papers.

0800 100 800

Because life's complicated enough.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of endowment mortgages an endowment policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. Loans are subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under the age of 18. Written quotations are available on request. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells its own Life Assurance, Pension and Unit Trust products. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol, and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6LN, United Kingdom.

House shares secrets that only hairdressers should hear



McCartney solved the minimum wage problem

AS backbench Labour MPs filed into the Chamber for Questions to industry ministers yesterday they were handed briefing notes as churchgoers are handed hymnsheets. It was impossible to avoid Ann Campbell (Cambridge) in purple and John Hutton (Barrow-in-Furness) in grey: two parliamentary private secretaries to ministers. Like ushers at a wedding they supplied worshippers with instructions. To refuse would have been insubordinate. None dared.

Certainly Barbara Follett (Stevenage) was to be seen studying hers with care. Petite and dark, Ms Follett is more than a "designer" new Labour, more than a wearer of labels

she is the label. Like the tendency she represents, self-consciously cutting edge, and faintly 1980s.

Follett has always rejected the appellation "champagne socialist" — "I'm more a cappuccino socialist," she once said. "I hate being trivialised as a poor little rich girl." We hope it does not trivialise Ms Follett to remark that she looks younger than her years.

And we hope it does not trivialise the junior minister yesterday. McCartney is so unconstructed that new Labour are rather fond of him, parading and cheering him on the front bench as a regiment might flaunt a captured monkey as their mascot.

Mr McCartney solved a problem that has defeated



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

neckless Scots ex-seaman with a pudding-basin haircut is a walking definition of "unreconstructed".

He just shouts everything. "Anyway, 88 per cent of top companies are unionised!" he bawled, seriously off-message yesterday. McCartney is so unconstructed that new Labour are rather fond of him, parading and cheering him on the front bench as a captured monkey as their mascot.

Mr McCartney solved a problem that has defeated

professors of economics for a century. He produced a knockdown argument for a minimum wage. Could anyone (he yelled) name a single country with a minimum wage for hairdressers where you could not get a haircut?

This produced a stunned silence. Critics of the minimum wage, unaware that it was part of their case that the abolition of hairdressers, seemed stuck for a response to the McCartney doctrine. Supporters of the minimum wage,

unaware of claims that hairdressing was threatened by their plans, were simply baffled. Taking the silence as a QED to his theorem, McCartney sat down triumphantly. MPs cheered. Are arguments in Cabinet like this?

It is to be hoped that the Government may extend the McCartney Hairdresser Test to other areas of political controversy. Can anyone name a country that has joined a single currency, for instance, where it has become impossible to get a haircut? However brutal his approach to his job of Press Secretary, has Alastair Campbell ever hurt a hairdresser? Does the Millennium Dome threaten a single barber's livelihood?

Such speculation intrigues. So when the well-coiffed Ms Follett rose to question McCartney on "co-operation between employers and employees" we wondered at her motives. Was she worried that Government plans for the shopfloor threatened Vidal Sassoon or Nicky Clarke?

Whatever her inquiry, it was forgotten in the chuckles aroused by McCartney's reply. He congratulated her at length on becoming a grandmother. He went on and on. Follett looked underwhelmed. Was young old Labour taking a dig at old new Labour? Did she mind? These are secrets Follett may share only with her hairdresser. If he survives the minimum wage.



Follett congratulated on grandmother status

Law lords ruling a setback for asylum-seekers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of people fleeing civil wars will find it more difficult to win asylum after a House of Lords ruling yesterday narrowing the definition of a refugee.

Refugees from a particular group involved in civil conflict will have to prove they are personally at greater risk of persecution than other members of the group.

It will no longer be sufficient for a refugee to win asylum on the basis that he or she fears persecution as a member of a group involved in a civil war, even if the conflict is based on racial or religious grounds.

In a unanimous ruling, five law lords upheld an appeal by the Home Secretary against an appeal court judgment. A Home Office spokesman said last night it was an important case and the Government was "very pleased the law in this area had been clarified".

The case had been taken to the House of Lords by Hassan Adan who fled from ethnic conflict in Somalia in 1988 and arrived in Britain in 1990. He was refused asylum but he and his wife and two children have been given exceptional

leave to stay on humanitarian grounds.

Mr Adan claimed that as a member of the Issaq clan, he would suffer persecution if he returned to Somalia. But the law lords ruled that all sections of society in northern Somalia were equally at risk so long as the civil war continued and that there was no ground for differentiating between Mr Adan and anyone else. They said that an individual had to show a well-founded fear of persecution, above the risk to life and liberty involved in being caught in a civil war.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick said: "In a state of civil war between clans, an asylum-seeker must be able to show that he is at greater risk of ill-treatment than other members of his clan." He added that where a state of war existed it was not enough for an asylum-seeker to show he would be at risk if he were returned to his country. "He must be able to show differential impact. In other words, he must be able to show fear of persecution for [Geneva] Convention reasons

over and above the ordinary risks of clan warfare."

Lord Lloyd said that fighting between clans in a civil war was not what those drafting the convention had in mind when they used the word persecution.

The law lords also delivered another setback to refugees by ruling that at the time they apply for asylum, they must have a present fear of persecution. It is not enough to claim they feared persecution when they fled their home.

Peter Jorro, manager of the tribunal team at the Refugee Legal Centre, said last night the decisions were a setback for asylum-seekers. He said the Government had been willing to describe Kurds fleeing from Saddam Hussein as refugees.

"We would say that they were refugees because the reason they were being attacked by the Iraqis was that they were Kurds and racially different. What the House of Lords is saying is that they would not be refugees unless individually there is a specific reason why they are personally being targeted."



The yachtswoman Tracy Edwards wipes away a tear after docking at Puerto Montt in Chile yesterday, two weeks after her attempt to sail non-stop around the world ended in disaster in the South Pacific. Miss Edwards, 35, and her all-woman crew were thwarted when the 102ft mast of their 92ft-long catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance snapped when hit by a huge wave 2,000 miles from land.

Wet-eyed crew hits dry land

They were forced to rig up an improvised sail for the gruelling voyage that took them to the South American coast. The catamaran was on course

to beat the 71-day record when disaster struck in gale force winds. The 11-strong crew had travelled 15,200 miles since setting off from Ushant, in northwest France, and battled heavy seas in the Furious Fifties for several days. The bitterly disappointed Miss Edwards is pictured with Miranda Merron, left, and Sharon Farris after docking at Puerto Montt, 600 miles south of Santiago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British anthrax 'was exported to Iraq'

Britain has launched an investigation into new claims that British anthrax was supplied to Iraq in the 1980s. Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, said that he acted immediately to prevent a "stain on the honour of this nation" after being told that British scientists supplied anthrax strains to an American company that exported the substance to Iraq.

Mr Lloyd launched the investigation after the Liberal Democrats claimed that in the 1980s the American Type Culture Collection, a company based in Maryland, exported to Iraq 21 strains of anthrax that had originated in Britain. Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs spokesman, aired his claims about the British links with Iraq in a Commons debate, telling MPs: "There is now clear and credible evidence that Britain laid the foundations, not just for the nuclear and the chemical programme, but for the biological weapons programme being pursued in Iraq."

Drug deaths alarm

The soaring number of deaths from the heroin substitute drug methadone has led the Westminster coroner to write to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to demand a government inquiry into the way private doctors prescribe it. Yesterday Paul Knapman heard how a woman addict died from an overdose of the drug supplied by her doctor for £30 a week. Dr Knapman said the number of methadone-related deaths in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Merton had risen from nine in 1995 to 26 last year.

Vitamin campaign fails

Health food shops will lose the right to sell Vitamin B6, except in tiny doses, after campaigners failed to persuade the Food Safety Minister Jeff Rooker that it was safe. The Government is pressing ahead with its threat to ban sales of more than 10mg a day except through pharmacies. Many women, who say it helps to counter pre-menstrual tension and menopausal problems, regularly take 100mg a day. A study has shown that some women who take B6 suffer numbness, bone pain and muscle weakness.

Teesside officer cleared

A detective on the troubled zero-tolerance CID unit in Cleveland has been cleared by an internal inquiry. Detective Sergeant John McPherson, the right-hand man of Ray Mallon, the architect of the zero-tolerance policy on Teesside, is the first officer from the squad to be exonerated since it came under investigation last year. He was transferred on December 11 from Middlesbrough CID to uniformed duties in the Stockton-on-Tees division while senior officers investigated claims of improper conduct.

World Cup knives ban

Football's international governing body, Fifa, has stopped sales of lethal knives authorised as souvenirs for the World Cup after protests from Britain. Tony Blair welcomed the decision and praised the work of Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who first spotted the knives and questioned their sale. The 4 in knives were originally licensed by Fifa's marketing partner ISL as part of the 300 items of official World Cup merchandise. A Fifa source said ISL had acted in "good faith".

Sex offenders warned

Serious child sex offenders who refuse to co-operate with police and social services when they come out of jail could be "named and shamed", senior police officers said yesterday. Forces are prepared to follow the example of North Wales police who revealed the presence of a couple convicted of sex offences to the owner of a caravan park. Offenders will be given a lecture on the realities of their position and told to co-operate or face putting themselves at risk in the community.

1471 call traps rapist

A rapist who was jailed for seven years yesterday was caught when a teacher dialled 1471 after he made a telephone call from his home to the Edinburgh school where one of his victims was a pupil, Martin Taylor, 23, of Kirkcaldy, called to speak to the teenager he had raped the night before. The 18-year-old had given him a false name and claimed she worked at the school. When Taylor called, the teacher who answered grew suspicious and dialled 1471 to trace the caller. It turned out to be Taylor's home number.

Soccer ban challenged

Britain's only female football agent has taken action against being barred from an awards dinner. Rachel Anderson lodged a complaint of sex discrimination with the Equal Opportunities Commission because the Professional Footballers' Association is banning her from its male-only ceremony on Sunday. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Graham Kelly, the Football Association chief executive, are boycotting the dinner to support her. The PFA said she was not welcome as the event was for professional footballers.

Maze murder report defends liberal regime

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government ruled out radical changes in running the Maze prison yesterday but promised rapid action to remedy security lapses that contributed to Billy Wright's murder and the escape of an IRA killer in December.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that nobody would be asked to resign and there would be no further restrictions on prisoners' freedoms. She was responding to a report that contained trenchant criticism of the "general sloppiness", "apathy" and "poor middle-management that made the murder and escape possible, but which defended the prison's liberal regime and exonerated those in charge."

The report argued that the Maze was an extraordinarily difficult prison to run and that 500 highly-organised inmates from five terrorist groups had to be treated differently, to prevent trouble both inside and outside the jail. That included keeping prison officers out of the wings.

The Maze was not the "holiday camp" that the media suggested, but "there is no point in pretending it is a normal prison," said the report's author, Martin Narey, director of prison regimes for England and Wales. "This pretence has in large part been

the basis of the very negative publicity about the prison which has followed the escape and the shooting."

The report angered Ulster Unionists, who had demanded the resignations of Martin Mogg, the governor, and Alan Sharnon, the chief executive of Northern Ireland's Prison Service.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, called it a "terrorists' charter for paramilitaries to continue to impose by violence and threat of violence a lawless and undemocratic regime."

Mr Narey was summoned by Dr Mowlam after the murder of Wright, the Loyalist Volunteer Force leader, by republican inmates in the same H-block, and the escape of Liam Averill in women's clothing during a Christmas party for prisoners' relatives. Since then LVF inmates have killed another prisoner, David Keys, in his cell.

Mr Narey was unable to establish how the gun was smuggled into the prison but identified shortcomings in the searches of visitors, prisoners, staff, contractors and incoming mail. He confirmed that a watchtower for the yard where Wright was shot was unmanned at the time, but rejected Unionists' claims of official collusion in his killing.

He also dismissed charges that Mr Mogg had ignored warnings that Wright was in danger. "The governor is inundated with warnings, rumour and anecdote. He cannot react to them all because to do so would prevent the running of the prison: prisoners would never be allowed to leave their wings."

Mr Narey made 59 recommendations for tightening security. Dr Mowlam said some had already been implemented, others would be implemented immediately and three task forces would be set up to consider the rest.



Wright inquiry rejects collusion over his death

Leading article, page 23

If you're a regular saver, we think you deserve a regular bonus.

At the Halifax we've just launched a new Monthly Saver account that makes saving even more rewarding.

You can save a fixed amount between £5 and £250 each month which will earn an attractive 7.5% each year made up of a healthy interest rate of 5% and an annual bonus of 2.5%.

Because we know you're only human, you do have the flexibility to miss one monthly payment and make

The new Halifax Monthly Saver account

one withdrawal a year and still get your bonus. And, if you're one of the lucky 25 winners in our Double Your Money competition, we'll double the amount you've invested over the first year.

For more details just call into your local branch or phone us free on 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack. Whatever you're saving for, it'll pay you to save regularly with the Halifax.

HALIFAX Get a little extra help. www.halifax.co.uk

The rates of interest (5% and 2.5%) are variable. The figures quoted are gross. Interest and bonus will only be paid gross (this means without the deduction of interest) if you are registered with us as a non-tax payer. Halifax Monthly Saver is not available as a debit or credit account. For full terms and conditions, contact your local branch or visit our website. Halifax Monthly Saver account holders must pay a regular monthly amount into their account by standing order and payments apply to the annual bonus. Interest and 2.5% bonus will only be paid if you have a Halifax Monthly Saver account at any branch of Halifax plc between 1st March and 31st April 1998. See other conditions. Competition closes on 30th June 1998. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Halifax branch. Full information and a copy of the account conditions are available from Halifax plc. Registered office: Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2NG. Registered in England No. 2287914

INDIA Somak Holidays, one of the leading Tour Operators to India celebrates 30 years of experience by launching its most diverse India brochure yet.

- Cultural & Wildlife Tours (May 1998 - September 1999)
- Kerala Beaches & Tours (November 1998 - April 1999)
- Goa Beaches & Tours (November 1998 - April 1999)

Somak HOLIDAYS 0181 423 3000

Curry's

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST TV & VIDEO STORES

EASTER EXTRA SAVINGS

SAVE UP TO £200

ON A RANGE OF WIDESCREEN TELEVISIONS



WORLD CUP SPECIALS

- FREE CASIO LCD TV WITH SELECTED TV AND VIDEOS
 - FREE 14" MATSUI TV WITH GRUNDIG 70700 TV
 - FREE 14" TV WITH SELECTED LARGE SCREEN TV'S
- Ask in-store for details

DOLBY PRO-LOGIC TV SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £100



28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV

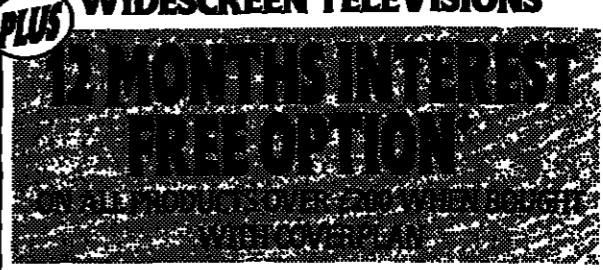
- 66cm visible screen size
- On-screen display for size of use
- Auto set-up
- Model 28XDP2
- Was £549.99, Now £449.99
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

LARGE SCREEN TV SAVE UP TO £90



25" NICAM Stereo TV with Fastext

- 59cm visible screen size
- Fastext for easy access to Teletext services
- Superto NICAM stereo sound
- Model 25E7
- Was £469.99, In-store Price £429.99
- 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



NICAM VIDEOS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £80



4-Head Super-Trilogic NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

- On-screen display
- VideoPlus and PDC for easy, reliable programming
- Model SVE720, In-store Price £299.99
- Model VHS2, In-store Price £199.99
- 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



WORLD CUP SPECIAL 14" TELEVISION

- Model PANASONIC 14B3R
- Ask for details

28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Fastext

- 58cm visible screen size
- On-screen display for size of use
- Auto set-up
- Model 28XDP2
- Was £549.99, In-store Price £449.99
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

25" TV with Fastext

- 59cm visible screen size
- Fastext for easy access to Teletext services
- Superto NICAM stereo sound
- Model 25E7
- Was £469.99, In-store Price £429.99
- 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

4-Head Super-Trilogic NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus and PDC

- On-screen display
- VideoPlus and PDC for easy, reliable programming
- Model SVE720, In-store Price £299.99
- Model VHS2, In-store Price £199.99
- 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

WIDESCREEN TV SAVE UP TO £200



32" Widescreen TV with Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

- 76cm visible screen size
- Model 32WRZK2
- Was £1249.99, Now £1049.99
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

THIS EXCLUSIVE PORTABLE TV ONLY £99.99



14" Portable TV with Remote Control

- 34cm visible screen size
- On-screen display
- Model 14B3R
- Was £116.99, In-store Price £99.99

TV/VIDEO PACKAGES SAVE UP TO £150



21" TV/Video Package

- 51cm visible screen size
- PLUS Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC
- Model 21B10
- Total Separate Selling Price £509.99
- 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

VIDEO RECORDERS SAVE UP TO £50



Long Play Video with VideoPlus and PDC

- Auto tuning
- Auto set-up
- On-screen display
- Model VR175
- Was £199.99, In-store Price £149.99
- 50% OFF

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it. WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

Only Curry's bring you all this...

- PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME** Up to 5 years expert service support when you buy a MasterCard Corporation Service Agreement.
- DELIVERY & INSTALLATION 7 DAYS A WEEK** On a wide range of home appliances when you purchase before 4pm. 8.5 hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and more remote parts of Scotland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery, or take it home soon.
- DIGITAL COMPATIBLE** All TVs Curry's sell are compatible with future digital technology. Subject to the purchase of an additional digital decoder planned for launch during 1998.
- AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SERVICE** Repairs 7 days a week (some day wherever possible).
- SAME DAY SERVICE** For most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Curry's store.
- INSTANT CREDIT** With Curry's Premier Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.
- CURRY'S DIRECT** For direct, doorstep delivery. Freephone 0203 283824 or Fax 01442 888145. Same-day Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat. Delivery charges from £1.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Written quotations from Curry's, Dept. 406, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Curry's are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

ACCOUNT IS INTEREST FREE IF REPAYED IN FULL BEFORE OR WITHIN 90, 360, 900 or 1200 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE PERIOD STATED WITH THE PRODUCT. SEE OUR 'HOW IT WORKS' SHOWCARD IN-STORE FOR DETAILS. EXAMPLE BASED ON CASH PRICE OF £699.99.

20% deposit of £99.99, 12 monthly payments of £33.53. Balance of £237.54 before APR 29.5% (or with) the 12th monthly repayment. Total amount payable £469.99, INTEREST 0%.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS! Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Curry's store to claim your voucher to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers and can only be used with Code 4 (Local Offer) offer. History: This voucher valid only until Wednesday, 28th April 1998 unless otherwise stated.

1000150

I felt for wife, says Navy adulteress



Colonel Pople: he denies scandalous conduct

By STEPHEN FARKELL

A HIGH-RANKING female naval officer was yesterday accused of having contempt for wives of military men she bedded, dismissing one as a "mouse". Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce allegedly told her former lover and boss, Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople: "Service wives who can't keep their husbands do not deserve my respect or consideration."

Colonel Pople, 42, the commanding officer of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps, is facing a court martial over allegations that he began the 2½-year affair while he was Commander Pearce's immediate superior, and bombarded her with threatening telephone calls when they broke up. He left his wife Brenda but is now back with her. Commander Pearce went on to have an affair with Lieutenant Nigel McTea, who was a colleague on HMS *Illustrious*.

Colonel Pople claims that in November 1996, during a friendly dinner, he warned his former lover about the effect on her career of a second affair with a married man. He claimed she replied "naval rules are different" and added dismissively: "Mrs McTea is

a real mouse. She's just like Brenda. She will put up with it."

The Colonel's lawyer, Rhyddian Willis, asked if she felt anything for his wife during the affair. "You weren't concerned for her or anything she might be feeling, were you?" Commander Pearce, 34, replied: "I felt for her but at the end of the day it was not just me involved in the relationship." She repeatedly denied sneering at service wives, referring to her lover's children as "Service brats" or telling him that she would "have to sleep with the Secretary of the Second Sea Lord" to avoid career problems over the adultery.

The court martial heard that before he flew out to Bosnia in November 1996, Colonel Pople spent his last night in Britain with his former mistress and not his wife, even though the affair had ended by then. They have given very different accounts of their last night



Brenda Pople: her husband returned

together at her home in Nyewood, West Sussex.

Commander Pearce says that Colonel Pople appeared naked in her bedroom the next morning and ordered her to arouse herself to orgasm with a sex aid he nicknamed her "pink friend".

Although shocked, she agreed to do it because it was the quickest way to get rid of him.

However, he says they spent the evening dining on smoked salmon, prawns, pasta with dill and shiatake mushrooms, but that she invited him into her bed the next morning when he went for a shower.

Giving evidence in the witness box with Colonel Pople's wife sitting in court, Commander Pearce was questioned in graphic detail about her sexual preferences and activities during the affair. Miss Willis suggested that the colonel nicknamed her "wicked witch" because she was loud during sex, but she said

she could not remember. At one stage she protested at the line of questioning but was overruled by the Judge Advocate Edmund Moelwyn-Hughes. The defence also accused her of threatening to use her expertise on sexual harassment cases gleaned from her time in the Navy. She admitted having been a member of the advisory Sexual Harassment Action Group aboard HMS *Illustrious* but denied telling Colonel Pople during one telephone call "I can say anything about you without there being any risk to me or my position."

The court martial also heard from her current lover, Lieutenant McTea, who admitted that they had sex in a hire car in Malta.

During lighter moments, the court was shown a cuddly toy gorilla given to Colonel Pople by Commander Pearce. A court orderly in Service dress collected the brown 9in fluffy toy from on top of a manual of military law.

Colonel Pople denies scandalous conduct and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. The case continues.



Commander Pearce: she denies sneering about wives

Features, page 19
Philip Howard, page 22

More women sign up for Army career

A RECORD number of women have applied to join the Army in the past 12 months, the first sign that the Government's equal opportunity campaigns are beginning to produce results.

Job opportunities in previously all-male regiments and the more "caring image" being fostered from the top echelons of the Army are seen as the principal reasons for the surge in female interest.

Ministers will announce today that 14 per cent of recruits in the year up to the end of February were women, a total of 3,200. Like their male counterparts, not all will pass the basic training. At present 6.3 per cent of the Army is female, a total of 7,250.

The latest recruiting figures will be published at the launch of an army poster campaign to promote the opportunities for women and for young people from ethnic minorities. The figures will show that 239 black people and Asians were recruited in the past year, compared with 98 the previous year.

While John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, regards the increase as encouraging, he accepts there is still a long way to go. He has set a target of increasing ethnic minority recruits by 1 per cent a year. There is already ethnic monitoring of recruits for the regular Army and Dr Reid plans to introduce a similar system for the Territorial Army.

The biggest surprise in the latest figures is the rise in women applying, indicating that competition between the sexes for the best jobs will become increasingly acute. From April 1, the proportion of jobs available for women rose from 47 per cent to 70 per cent. They are now able to join the

Men will find an increase in competition for the best military roles, reports Michael Evans

Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Signals. Ministers are reviewing whether to increase the proportion, although there remain concerns about letting women serve in infantry regiments.

Women who joined the Army from April 1 benefit from a new "gender-neutral" fitness programme which is related not to physical prowess but to the type of work the recruit is expected to fulfil.

Women are beginning to climb higher up the promotion ladder. The two most senior female officers in the Armed Forces are a brigadier in the Army and a commodore in the Royal Naval Reserve.

Two female naval lieutenants last month took command of two fast training boats and the first female principal warfare officer was recently appointed.

There are 15,609 women in the three Armed Forces. Dr Reid said: "We want the best and brightest people to join the Services irrespective of sex or race or social background."

Last week the threat by the Commission for Racial Equality to take action over allegations of racism in the Household Cavalry was lifted when it accepted there had been improvements in equal opportunity recruiting.

Father jailed over son's lone rail trip

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER has been jailed for four months for sending his five-year-old son on a 50-mile train journey on his own.

A passenger on the Trans-Pennine express noticed James Heron travelling alone and alerted police at the next stop. They found the distressed boy wandering along a mainline platform looking for his mother.

This week magistrates in Darlington, Co Durham, jailed Robert Heron, his father, after he admitted causing



James Heron: looked in vain for his mother

the boy unnecessary suffering. The court was told that Heron, 33, had moved out of the home he had shared in Darlington with James and Sharon Hindhaugh, the boy's mother, and gone to live in York. He saw his son regularly, collecting him from his mother's house and taking him by train to stay with him in York. He would always accompany him home.

But after one visit last October, Heron phoned Miss Hindhaugh to say he was unwell and could not travel with his son but was putting him on the train on his own. She did not believe him.

A passenger became concerned when she saw the five-year-old by himself and alerted British Transport Police in Darlington when the youngster got off. The boy began wandering around looking for his mother, whom he thought would be waiting.

Miss Hindhaugh, 36, said yesterday: "When James's dad told me he was going to put him on the train alone, I thought it was a joke." It was totally irresponsible."

PSION SERIES 5. £399**

SINCE Psion first invented the handheld computer more than 12 years ago, there have been many imitators. However, with the launch of the new Series 5 handheld computer, Psion have once again proved that imitation is no match for innovation.

Who else but Psion could concentrate all you need to type, sketch, send faxes and email*, record voice memos and

keep appointments into a device weighing just 13oz? And who else but Psion could offer you all this from as little as £399.95?

INFO: 0890 200 520

PSION OFFICE™

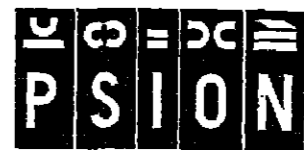
A Windows® compatible suite of office software, including a fully-featured word processor (with spell checker and thesaurus), a sophisticated spreadsheet, drawing package, and optional presentation software, all fully compatible with desktop applications from Microsoft, Lotus and Corel.

PSION CONNECTIVITY™

Link the Psion Series 5 to your PC and you can swap files within virtually all major Windows applications effortlessly. Or just point and beam it at infrared enabled printers for hard copies. Connect to a modem, and the world is yours with built-in fax, email and web-browsing.

PSION ORGANISER™

Take charge of your life with Psion's world-famous time manager. View days, weeks, even years at a time. Keep track of thousands of names, addresses and phone numbers with ease. And synchronise all this information with your desktop agenda applications seamlessly.



SERIES

WORKING WITH YOU. EVERYWHERE.





The children who tore me from the catwalk

Despised cul-de-sac comes to a dead end

Good riddance says Marcus Binney. But planners should seek inspiration from a famous old blind alley

FIRST it was the doorstep, now the cul-de-sac. While there are good reasons to lament the passing of the doorstep, a great British institution by any standard, the abolition of the cul-de-sac deserves three loud cheers. Government plans to return to more traditional street layouts should be welcomed.

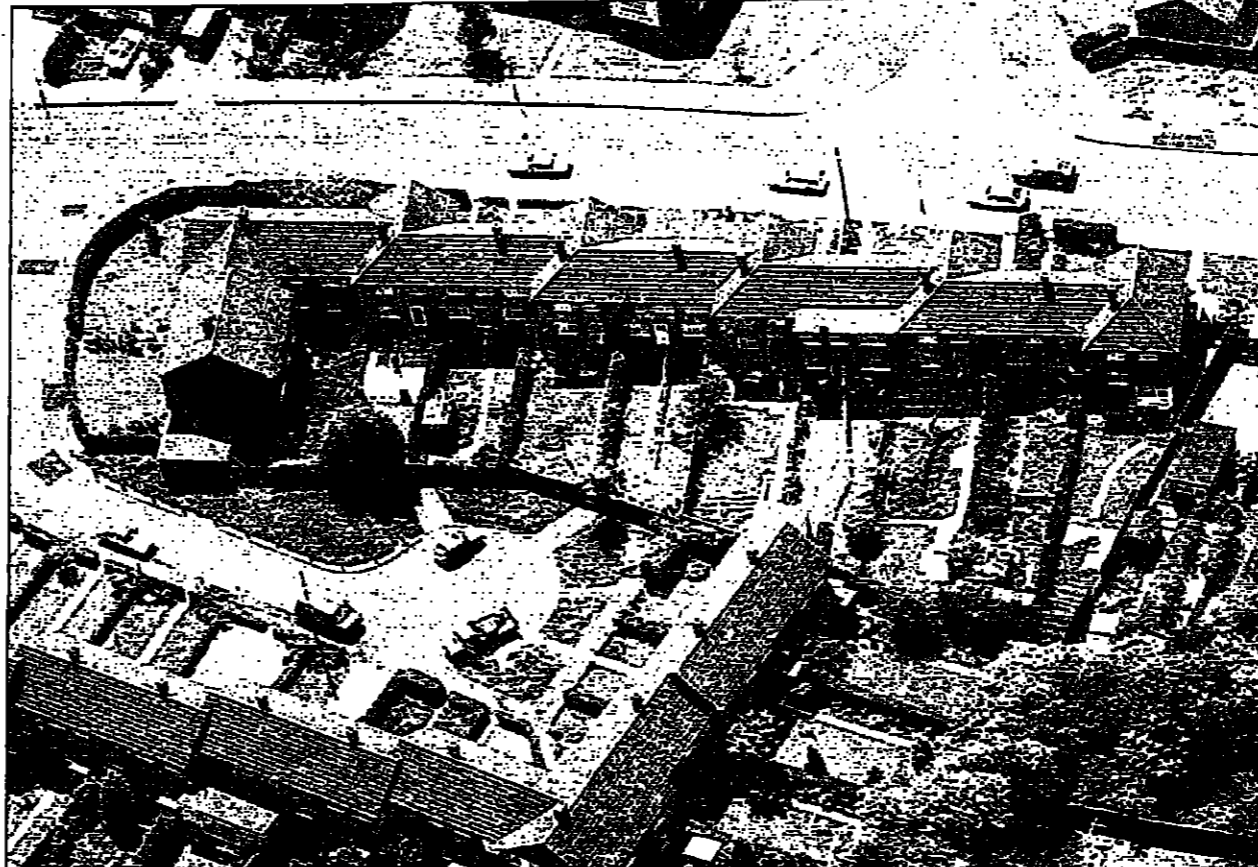
For several decades planners have insisted that every new town or housing estate is a series of dead ends. Initially the idea was partly to block through traffic and stop rat runs but the result was to turn new housing estates into middle-class ghettos. They became the equivalent of the great council estates, where through traffic was banned and which became so cut off from the city that the streets through them are often not even marked on A-Z maps.

Cul-de-sacs in recent years have been much advocated by some police forces, who believe that burglars do not like the idea of being trapped against a wall with no means of escape. Yet that philosophy goes against the wisdom of the greatest urbanist of our time, the American Jane Jacobs,

who argued that the safest places in cities and towns were traditional streets used by people going about their daily business and overlooked by residents, elderly maybe, who like to watch life go by.

By contrast the cul-de-sac is a dead and lonely place with nothing to watch and no passers-by: no one going to work, no children on their way to school, no one going out to shop. The French word cul-de-sac, literally a vessel open only at one end, came to mean a blind alley.

It is significant that one of the oldest and certainly the



A cul-de-sac in North London. Traditional street layouts are now seen to isolate people from life around them

most beautiful of all cul-de-sacs in England, the 14th-century Vicars' Close in Wells, has a narrow alley at the far end, allowing residents to enter and exit and providing a short cut for local people.

Cul-de-sacs in Georgian towns may have been closed to carts and carriages at one end but often had an archway or passage at the other, like the numerous courts opening off the north of Fleet Street. In the 19th century the mews built behind streets and squares of grand town houses for stables and carriage houses were also sometimes built as cul-de-sacs,

deliberately blocked off in the centre — like Eaton Mews north and south in London — to stop through traffic.

The greatest champion of the cul-de-sac was probably Raymond Unwin, one of the fathers of the garden city movement. He advocated the dumb bell layout, with suburban houses around a circle at the end of a cul-de-sac. To Unwin, it was a means of getting away from the uniformity of late Victorian grid layouts such as might be found in the backstreets of Tottenham, Leeds or Sheffield. Unwin's thinking was fed

into government or local authority advice on planning between the wars and was taken up by housebuilders, who saw the cul-de-sac layout as an easy route to obtain approval from planners and highway authorities. Cul-de-sacs, however, form maddening dead ends for people on foot or bicycle, who can be forced to make long detours round large sealed-off housing estates.

Alan Baxter, author of the new report going to the government on street layouts, recommends greater consideration for local topography and a return to traditional street

patterns. He says: "A cul-de-sac may provide a little extra security for a group of eight houses, but the proliferation of cul-de-sacs in towns and suburbs cumulatively causes isolation. People in one cul-de-sac have no knowledge of people in another. It destroys neighbourliness."

The solution appears very simple: to close streets to through traffic, allowing children to play, but permitting passage to those on foot and perhaps on bicycle — just what the vicars of Wells decided to do over six centuries ago.

City stress lops tree life by three quarters

By Gillian Harris

CITY life is killing millions of trees in Britain before they reach a quarter of their expected lifespan. Birches and cherry trees, which are among the most popular species planted in towns and cities, are particularly susceptible to damage caused by pollution, salt used to treat icy roads and poorly aerated soil.

Glynis Percival, a scientist at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayrshire, said yesterday that a two-year study into the health of the country's urban trees shows that trees in the city lived, on average, 32 years while those planted in the countryside survived for 150 years.

"We should be trying to identify trees which are more suitable for an urban environment," she said. "Eighty per cent of urban trees are cherry trees, apple trees, birches, hawthorns or rowans, and they may be the wrong species."

"Obviously, trees were never supposed to grow in cities in the first place, but there are trees which are more stress-tolerant."

Dr Percival suggested planting ornamental pear trees, river birches or even olive trees, more commonly associated with Mediterranean climates, which can exist without a large supply of oxygen. Urban trees are forced to grow in soil which is packed below concrete and starved of oxygen.

For Small Businesses - only 76p per day.*

Lease this HP Brio PC featuring a 233 MHz Intel processor and monitor for just 76p per day, or with a Pentium® II processor - for around £1 per day*

HP Brio 8017 • 233 MHz Pentium® processor • MMX technology • 16MB RAM • 2.2 GB disk • 2MB Video • 15" monitor	£699 exc. VAT 76p per day	£822 inc. VAT
HP Brio 8336 • 233 MHz Pentium® II processor • 16MB RAM • 4 GB disk • 2MB Video • Audio • 24 x CD-ROM • 15" monitor	£939 exc. VAT 103p per day	£1,104 inc. VAT

£699 exc. VAT (£822 inc. VAT) BUNDLE PRICE ONLY.

The HP Brio PC is designed specifically for small to medium businesses. And now Hewlett-Packard have designed this leasing deal specifically for your bottom line. The Brio is packed with the very latest features and for your peace of mind it comes with Hewlett-Packard's industry leading telephone support and on-site warranty. Call today - while this offer lasts.

To order phone 0990 474747
www.hp.com/sbpc/eu

HP Office Centre

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cheap fees for women ruled illegal

Nightclubs and discos that offer women lower entrance fees and cheaper drinks have been warned that they are breaking the law. The Equal Opportunities Commission has told them that the practice is against the Sex Discrimination Act.

Complaints from men at having to pay more have risen from one a month to one a week over the past 18 months, the commission said. The Independent Television Commission had received a sexism complaint about two Channel 5 commercials for cut-price admission.

Suspect ruled out

A 67-year-old man has been ruled out as a suspect for the so-called Mardi-Gras bomb attacks. He was held after a handgun was found in his car and police discovered a suspicious package near a Sainsbury's store in Ruislip, West London. The package proved to be an empty box.

Lamppost tussle

Edinburgh City Council has put a preservation order on two lampposts to stop the shipping company Christian Salvesen moving them to its new base in Northampton. The company, associated with Edinburgh for more than 150 years, is claiming them as part of its heritage.

£12,000 accident

Port Installations of Tonbridge, Kent, was fined £12,000 and ordered to pay £43,500 costs after a shore-to-ferry vehicle link span crashed into a harbour. It happened during major expansion work at Holyhead, Anglesey, the town's magistrates were told.

Zander record

A tanager angler, Lee McKay, of Brandon in Suffolk, has caught Britain's biggest zander. The fish weighed 21.5 lb. The previous record was 18 lb 10 oz. The zander, also known as the pike-perch, spread across East Anglia after escaping from a fish farm in Bedford 30 years ago.

Danger claws

Rummy, an eight-year-old Burmese cat belonging to Kathy Simmonds of Bognor Regis, West Sussex, has savaged the postwoman so much she will only deliver their letters to a neighbour. A Royal Mail spokeswoman said Rummy was clawing the woman through the letterbox.

CORRECTION

In the obituary of Monsignor Alfred Gilbey (March 27) a surviving cousin, Mr Walter Gilbey, was incorrectly described as a baronet. The present baronet is, in fact, Sir Gavin Gilbey, and we regret the error.

Drug warning on deranged killers

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than half of the 35 inquiries into cases of mentally ill people who have killed someone since 1992 show that the patients were not taking the medication they were prescribed, according to a report published today.

Side effects, poor aftercare and poor supervision were the main reasons why they had given up the drugs that were meant to control their condition, according to the report by The Zito Trust. It says that most patients are still being prescribed with conventional drugs which have disabling side effects, although there are a range of new drugs for treating schizophrenia.



Jayne Zito: husband was among victims

"The reason appears to be ignorance with clinicians not receiving information, and training and cost — the difference between 8p and 85 a day per patient." The trust says there is evidence that there is an informal ban in some health authorities, with prescribing practices regulated on a cost basis.

Other factors which cause patients to give up their medication include lack of insight by the patient into their own problems (80 per cent), substance abuse (65 per cent) poor communication with the family (55 per cent) and a failure to turn up for appointments (50 per cent). The trust says attacks by the mentally ill have

increased, especially among schizophrenics driven by delusions, with rates up 17 per cent among males and 85 per cent among females.

Evidence from the National Confidential Inquiry — a research undertaking funded by the Health Department and Royal College of Psychiatrists — shows that 43 per cent of 238 murderers tried in 1996-1997 had symptoms of mental illness at the time.

The Zito Trust, set up in 1994 by Jayne Zito after her husband was killed by a schizophrenic, says supervised discharge of patients into the community is failing to ensure they take their drugs. It calls for the system to be ended and replaced with outreach teams looking after small groups of 10 to 15 patients, with funding for 24-hour nursed beds.

A smart choice for International Business Gifts

Tiffany designs and the Tiffany blue box are recognised and appreciated worldwide.

A Tiffany Corporate gift consultation here or in locations around the world can help you choose the right business gift for every occasion.

And each gift will arrive on time.

TIFFANY & Co.

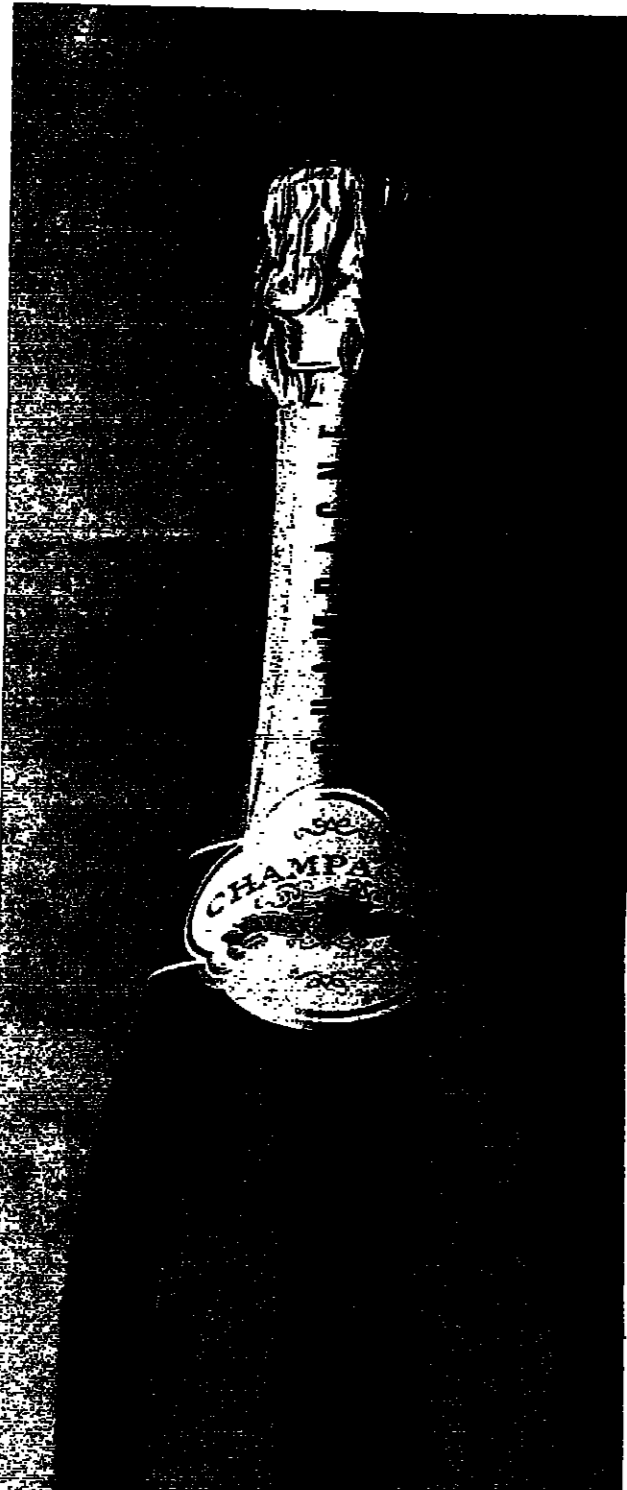
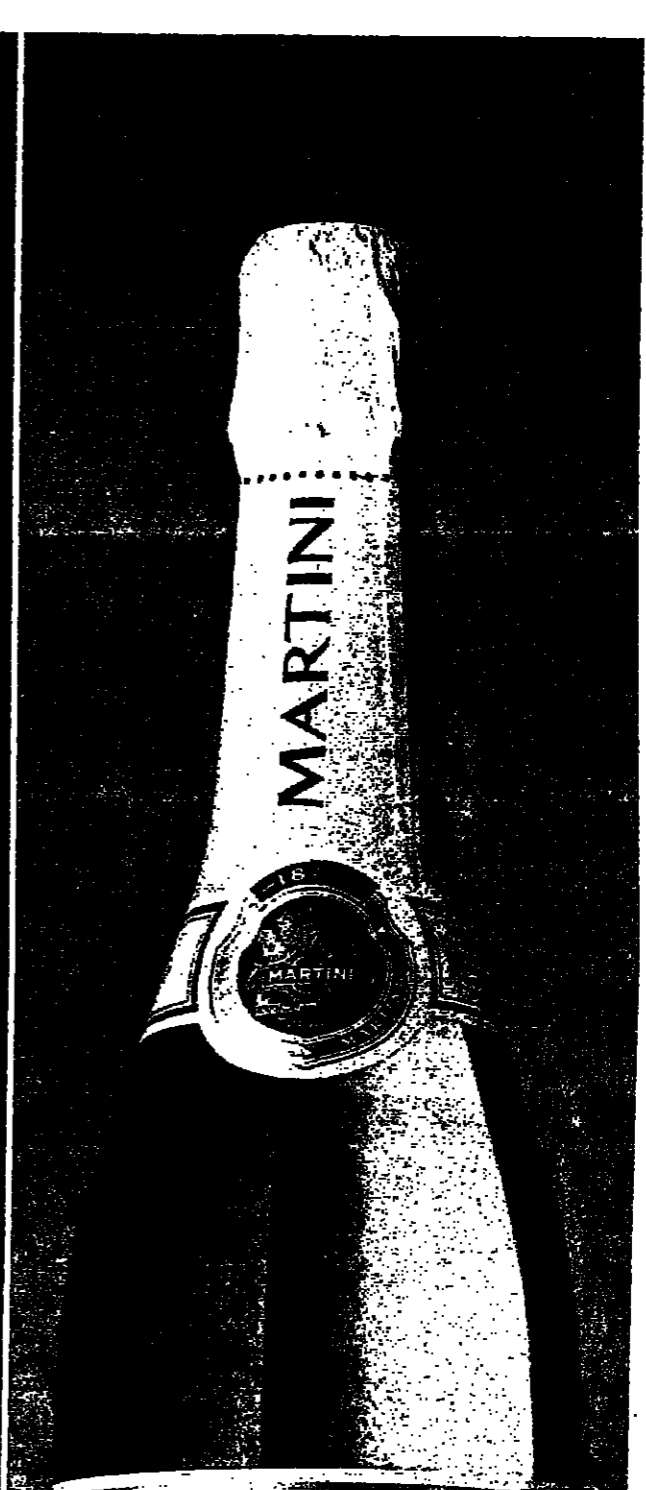
SINCE 1837

LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET W1
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0171-708 1271

سكزا في الأما

سكز أمتنا الأصيل

Sainsbury's sparkling wine. From the vat without the VAT.

 <p>Sainsbury's Extra Dry Champagne 75cl £12.95 £11.45 £9.44</p> <p>equivalent to Save £1.50 & VAT Free</p>	 <p>Sainsbury's Sparkling Chardonnay 75cl £5.99 £4.99 £4.11</p> <p>equivalent to Save £1 & VAT Free</p>	 <p>Moët & Chandon Brut Impérial NV Champagne 75cl £18.99 £15.66</p> <p>equivalent to VAT Free</p>	 <p>Asti Martini 75cl £5.99 £4.99 £4.11</p> <p>equivalent to Save £1 & VAT Free</p>
---	--	--	---

Sainsbury's

FRESH FOOD, FRESH IDEAS.



OFFERS END 11 APRIL 1998. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES. SOME LINES AVAILABLE IN LARGER STORES ONLY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS: www.sainsburys.co.uk

صحة من الاجل

Vineyard man cheated on last of the summer wine

Simon de Bruxelles reports how an English vintage was made from DIY box kits when grapes ran out

AN ELDERLY winemaker boasted that his vineyard was the most southerly in Britain. Hotels and restaurants served his table wine to their customers with apparent satisfaction, until the day that a wine inspector took a close look at the label.

One bottle was labelled as a 1992 vintage, which was strange, as the inspector knew that the vineyard had no harvest from 1991 to 1994. It was then that the winemaker Ted Jeffries, 70, admitted the truth. When the English sunshine failed to provide him with enough grapes, he simply made his wines from DIY kits instead.

Yesterday Jeffries, of Porthallow, Cornwall, was ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £6,000. Afterwards, he said that his customers had been perfectly happy with his wine.

Falmouth magistrates were told that while his labels said "Estate-grown table wine", his reds and his whites came out of boxes. The home-brew kits of "quality wine" were made up from concentrated grape juice marked "just add sugar and water".

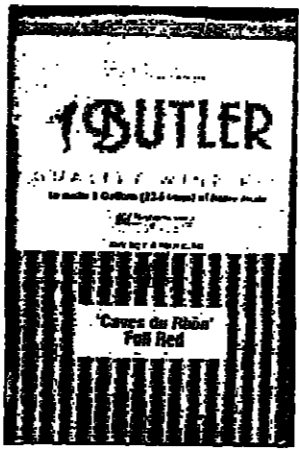
Jeffries had bought five acres of farmland at St Keverne on the Lizard Peninsula in the late 1980s with the intention of turning it into a vineyard, the magistrates were told. But personal problems meant the project got off to a slow start and it did not produce any grapes until 1995.

A wine inspector who knew the vineyard's sorry history became suspicious when he came across the bottle labelled as a 1992 vintage. Roger Tregidga, for the prosecution, said: "There was no harvest at all from 1991 to 1994, and wine was not produced there until 1995."

"The production was resting on two varieties - Madeleine Angevine and Triomphe. It was sold to hotels and restaurants in the county and to visitors coming to the vineyard shop. A leaflet about the wine stated: 'These are French varieties which we have been cropping for five years. We have made our first good quality wine from the '95 harvest'. Subsequent checks revealed that there had been little or no produce in 1995. A wine inspector noticed that one bottle of white said 1992 vintage and that could not have been because in 1992 the vines were cut back."

"An inspection revealed that the wine was in fact anything but estate grown and bottled. The wine had been made at Porthallow Vineyard but from wine kits. The inspector came across fermentation tanks, empty wine-kit boxes and wrappers scattered around. Mr Jeffries admitted the offences straight away."

Mr Tregidga said that Jeffries had probably made 4,000 to 5,000 litres of wine from the kits, which he sold for £5 a bottle. "It is difficult to assess how much money was in-



The source: a box makes five gallons in a week

involved, but the wine retailed at £5 per 75cl bottle and that would give a gross turnover in the region of £30,000."

Jeffries pleaded guilty to charges of falsely describing a white wine as Madeleine Angevine and a red wine as Triomphe when they were made from kits. He also admitted soaking the labels off bottles of commercially-pro-

duced cider and then selling it as made in Cornwall. Mr Tregidga said: "The only thing remotely Cornish about the cider was it happened to be already bottled in Cornwall at the time the label was replaced."

John Boyle, in mitigation, said: "At 70 years old, Mr Jeffries did not find it easy to deal with the incredible amount of regulations from Europe. The EC regulations are an absolute minefield. Mr Jeffries has not found it easy to understand them but he has learnt a lot from this prosecution. He had been making wine from his grapes but when they were exhausted he used kits to supplement the supplies."

After he was fined £4,750 with £1,250 costs, Jeffries said he would continue selling his DIY wine, but said he would be more careful about labels in future. He said: "People were certainly happy with the wine that they were getting. They tasted it before buying. I intend to carry on with

my business. I would like to make wine without using a kit but the English weather will not allow it. I use kits because the weights and measures of ingredients are already done for me. This time I will be using new labels and it will all be completely legal. We know now that every single label was not quite correct."

The Butler Quality Wine Kits used by Jeffries produce five gallons or 22.5 litres of wine in just seven days. A kit costs about £20 and is enough to fill 16 of the 75cl bottles. Peter Willis, southwest inspector for the Wine Standards Board, said no wine-lover would prefer wine from a kit to the genuine article.

He said: "Anyone who had tasted a real Triomphe grape red wine or a Madeleine grape white wine would never accept a kit wine as the real thing. The standard of taste and quality would be miles apart. Cases like this are unfortunate for the entire British wine industry. I have 110 vineyards in my area, trying to make an honest living."



Jeffries with one of his bottles. He said: "People were happy with the wine"

How John and Margaret have common touch

By Robin Young

BRITAIN'S last two Prime Ministers both had the most common of names. An exhaustive analysis of 823,652 current first names has revealed that there are more women of all ages called Margaret than anything else, and more men named John. However, both names are rapidly losing popularity.

The Office of National Statistics analysed GPs' patient lists from 1991 in England and Wales. It discovered that there were 1,471,990 Johns and 688,164 Margarets.

The second, third and fourth most popular men's names (David 1,202,989, Michael 877,827 and James 764,835) were all more numerous than Margaret, with women's names being much more evenly distributed among a number of popular choices.

The second most popular woman's name, Mary, had only enough registrations, with 570,011, to have ranked tenth on the men's list. Susan (523,493), Elizabeth (449,391) and Sarah (422,267) were the next most popular women's names.

While John is by far the most popular name in use, it is not so much in favour for recent births. In 1997, it only just featured in the top 50 male babies' names.

However, its familiar derivative, Jack, has held the honour of being the top baby boy's name for the past three years. Margaret has fared even worse than John. Neither it nor Mary nor Susan feature in the top 50 names for births registered in 1997.

The list was headed by Chloe, Emily and Sophie, although none of that newly

fashionable trio features in the overall top 50.

For the record, the current Prime Minister's name, Anthony, is 15th on the overall men's list (394,172) and 71st in the list for births registered in 1997 list.

The survey discovered that there are 823,652 names currently in use in England and Wales and that 562,030 are unique.

The majority of people have common names. More than 37 million people have names which are shared by 100,000 people or more.

The large number of unique names is mainly the result of variations on international

RARE NAMES

Among the least popular names are:

Boys: Towson, Woodward, Rosko, Chalmer, Taso, Destin, Cadius, Izam, Rawlston, Yavel.

Girls: Aylmer, Monah, Lica, Renal, Mawish, Pawanjot, Asumi, Linton, Romesh, Maine.

names: as they are written in a different language, spelling variations are not surprising. Some of the unique names may be misspellings, although many misspellings may be deliberate. There are 81 people with only a single letter as their forename.

The ONS list of names is drawn from the National Health Service Central Register which is administered by the ONS for the Department of Health. The NHSCR, established in 1948, does not retain details of people who died before 1991.

THE TOP 20 FORENAMES

	Men	Women
1	John 1,471,990	Margaret 688,164
2	David 1,202,989	Mary 570,011
3	Michael 877,827	Susan 523,493
4	James 764,835	Elizabeth 449,391
5	Robert 672,476	Sarah 422,267
6	Paul 668,284	Patricia 392,454
7	Peter 656,848	Joan 312,750
8	William 647,118	Jean 302,704
9	Andrew 581,975	Christine 301,249
10	Christopher 542,297	Kathleen 287,751
11	Thomas 520,467	Dorothy 281,128
12	Stephen 506,166	Helen 263,580
13	Richard 500,047	Barbara 254,702
14	Mark 469,186	Emma 253,839
15	Anthony 394,172	Julie 253,686
16	George 386,697	Linda 249,985
17	Alan 357,187	Janet 244,266
18	Daniel 340,952	Karen 243,765
19	Ian 331,145	Ann 233,651
20	Brian 319,165	Jennifer 230,940



Simple acts such as switching off unnecessary lights and turning off your TV at the set cuts energy use and saves you money. For more ideas on how to fight global warming send this coupon to: Are you doing your bit? PO Box 200, Stratford-on-Avon CV37 9BR or call 0345 86 86 86.



Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Address _____
Postcode _____

are you doing your bit?

Triple vaccine is rejected by one in four families

Doctors stress risk of epidemic, writes Ian Murray

UP TO a quarter of parents in some areas are now refusing to let their children have the triple vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella, according to reports from GPs. The refusals follow publication six weeks ago of research suggesting that there may be a link between the injection and bowel disease and autism.

Although the researchers, from the Royal Free Medical School, North London, said that they had found no scientific evidence of any link, the story has frightened many parents whose year-old children are in line to have the jab. Doctors fear that a large number of refusals could mean a real risk of epidemics.

John Chisholm, chairman of the British Medical Association's general medical services committee, said: "GPs are having to deal with parents who are either refusing, or who want to have the three injections separately a year apart. The anecdotal evidence is that large numbers of understandably concerned parents are refusing. If this is confirmed, it will hit immunisation targets very hard."

Accurate figures of the number of injections since publica-

tion of the report would not normally be available until the end of June. Dr Chisholm is pressing the Department of Health to collect them more quickly, to reveal the scale of the problem and work out ways of dealing with it. He said: "The best scientific advice is that there is no causal link between MMR and autism or bowel disease, but people are understandably suspicious in the wake of the BSE/CJD scare and we are potentially facing the worst setback in immunisation coverage since the whooping cough scare 15 years ago."

He said that doctors were opposed to giving children the vaccines separately because it put children at risk for longer periods and meant that some would probably default on at least one of the injections. Single vaccines are not currently not available on the NHS, which buys only ready mixed MMR from the American manufacturers, Pasteur Merieux. "I do not like the idea of making single vaccine available because I don't want the health service spending money on the worst treatment. Having said that if, after the fullest counselling, some parents insist on having it separately and the alternative is

that they will not have their child immunised, it may be that we will have to consider it."

Dr Chisholm said that GPs were also concerned that the fall-off would mean a loss of income. They are paid a £2,400 annual bonus if immunisation rates in their practice exceed 90 per cent; this falls to £800 if the rate is between 70 and 90 per cent. Below that, they get nothing.

Llewellyn Smith, the Labour MP for Blaenau, who has been campaigning on MMR safety, is writing to Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, asking for a public forum to examine all the evidence. "She told me she was worried because the numbers being vaccinated were dropping off significantly," he said. "I have heard the figure that only 75 per cent are taking them up and I think we have a right to see all the evidence."

Jackie Fletcher, founder of JABS, a support group for parents, said that her organisation has been receiving about 100 calls a day since the report was published: "We are not against immunisation and want children to be vaccinated, but we don't believe it is right they should have all three infections at once."

Railway champion fumes in defiance after loss

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMUTER'S two-year fight through the British courts to be allowed to light up on his daily train journey ended in defeat in the House of Lords yesterday.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, giving his first judgment as a law lord, dismissed an appeal by Peter Boddington, who was fined £10 by magistrates for infringing a bylaw that bans smoking on his journey between Brighton and London.

Mr Boddington, a 60-year-old smoker, has spent £25,000 taking his case through the courts to stand up for the rights of smokers on trains where there is a complete ban. His case was referred to the House of Lords because judges wanted to establish whether or not a criminal charge could be brought against someone who broke a bylaw.

Lord Irvine said that Connex South Central, the train operator, had the power to regulate any activity on its trains or premises: "A ban on smoking on all railway carriages is a form of regulating the use of the railway, or travel on the railway."

Lord Irvine said that there was nothing unlawful in this and dismissed Mr Boddington's appeal. Lords Browne-Wilkinson, Snydd of Hadley, Steyn and Hoffmann agreed.

But Mr Boddington, 43, a market trader who sells cut-price cigarettes, achieved one legal victory, in that the law lords agreed that a defendant does have the right to challenge the lawfulness of a



Peter Boddington, who says he will go to the European Court of Human Rights

bylaw or administrative decision where prosecution is based on its validity. This overturns a 1993 ruling by Lord Woolf, now Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Pill which restricted the grounds for challenges.

Afterwards, Mr Boddington lit a cigarette and said: "I

have no other alternative but to take this matter to the European Court of Human Rights."

He quoted a more famous smoker from the past to highlight his position: "As Winston Churchill said, 'In victory, magnanimity, in defeat, defiance.'"

Cut-price cigarette imports outlawed

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

A BRITISH firm that imported cigarettes from Luxembourg, where excise taxes are a fraction of this country's, and sold them at 40 per cent below prices in Britain was breaking European law, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The British Enlightened Tobacco Company marketed its Death cigarettes through a subsidiary called The Man in Black. The company, set up in 1995, had offered up to 800 cigarettes at a time by mail order from Luxembourg.

British officials were relieved by the court decision. Permission by the European Union to ship cigarettes and other high-duty goods across borders would have robbed the Exchequer of £2 billion a year, they said.

After Customs seized an early consignment at Dover, the High Court in London outlawed the practice but referred the case to the European court. The judges yesterday accepted the Government's argument that the imports were not personal shipments but a commercial enterprise, liable for British duty.

The European Commission dampened hopes yesterday of a reprieve for the EU's duty free industry by ruling out any review of the 1993 law that will end the practice in July next year.

Women smokers likelier to die of heart attacks

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

WOMEN smokers have a 50 per cent higher risk of dying from a heart attack than men who smoke, researchers have discovered. A likely reason is that tobacco smoke has an adverse effect on the female hormone, oestrogen.

The study monitored nearly 11,500 women and 13,200 men over 12 years. Although the men were generally more affected by heart disease, after allowances for alcohol consumption and exercise, the higher risk for women became evident.

A team from the Institute of Preventative Medicine at Copenhagen University says the findings are important because the recent steep rise in the number of women smoking is expected to continue.

"At the start of the smoking epidemic, female smokers were few and differed extensively from male smokers in factors such as age of starting smoking, amount smoked and inhalation habits, and the risk of smoking in women may have been underestimated," the team writes in today's *British Medical Journal*.

"Within the past two or

three decades, male and female smoking habits have become similar and a more fair comparison of the risk associated with smoking in both sexes, based on recent population studies, is now possible."

The study confirmed earlier research which showed that mortality in middle-aged women is among the highest in western Europe and is at least partly caused by smoking. It also showed that former smokers halve their excess risk of a heart attack within the first year after quitting.

The possible link with hormonal factors is evidence that women who smoke are relatively deficient in oestrogen. They have an earlier menopause and a decreased risk of cancer in the uterus but a higher likelihood of osteoporosis. Oestrogen deficiency is also associated with a higher risk of heart disease and rates of the illness rise sharply after the menopause.

There is growing evidence that women who use hormone replacement therapy have a lower rate of heart disease because this increases blood

flow and reduces arteriosclerosis — hardening of the arteries. Therefore, the authors say, if tobacco smoke interacts with sex hormones, the risk of heart disease will increase. The present large clinical study into whether hormone replacement affects cancer rates may also show if there is a real link with heart disease.

The researchers devised a measure of "pack years" to calculate how much people smoke. Current tobacco consumption was worked out by equating a cigarette to 1 gram of tobacco, a cheroot to 3 grams and a cigar to 5 grams. Pack years were years of smoking multiplied by the number of packs the individual consumed daily.

The researchers found that the maximum risk was among inhaling smokers of more than 30 pack years. The risk to women in that category was more than three times higher than for men. For both sexes, there was a rise in danger depending on how much a person smoked, but women were always more at risk than men who inhaled a similar amount.

Danger of E coli in underdone burgers

By Ian Murray

BEEFBURGERS should never be ordered less than well done and should be sent back if undercooked, according to researchers into the causes of *E. coli*.

A study of 85 cases of illness caused by the bacterium also found that cold meat sandwiches bought through caterers were more often associated with the infection than cold meats bought at butchers.

The researchers, from public health laboratory services in Cardiff and London, report in *The Lancet* today that they found that 19 of the 85 had been infected by beefburgers. Five cases involved home-made beefburgers and the remaining 14 were bought in different catering establishments, three of them abroad and two from mobile vans.

Inspectors visited the nine other establishments and found that in only one was there a cooking method that ensured the meat was thoroughly cooked through. At another establishment, the preset time for a well done burger left the meat pink; another left the customer to microwave a frozen burger.

"The critical point for beefburger preparation is thorough cooking," the researchers' report says. "Educating the public to send back pink, undercooked beefburgers could also contribute to prevention."

Footballer loses £2.4m claim for shortened career

By Tim Jones

A PROMISING young footballer whose career was cut short after he had several operations for a rare vascular disorder lost his claim yesterday for £2.4 million compensation from Sunderland Football Club.

Kieron Brady, a former Republic of Ireland youth team player, claimed in the High Court that the first division club had delayed treatment by refusing to take his complaint of excruciating leg pains seriously. Had he had been treated promptly, he said, he would have been cured and been able to continue playing.

Mr Brady, now 26, joined the club as an apprentice when he was 17 and made his first-team debut in November 1989. He played his last game in November 1992, when he was substituted at half time.

During an 11-day hearing earlier this year Mr Brady told the court that he had repeatedly complained of pain in his right calf for months before he was finally referred to hospital in December 1992. He said that Malcolm Crosby, then the manager, and Steve Smelt, then the club physiotherapist, had ignored his complaints, putting them down to an attitude problem and a dislike for hard training.

But Mr Justice Buckley, giving judgment, said that he had "enormous sympathy" for



Brady complained of excruciating pain

Mr Brady but was not satisfied the club was in breach of its duty of care towards him. Although Mr Crosby had been "probably fairly tough" as a manager, neither he nor Mr Smelt had been negligent.

The judge said the evidence showed that the symptoms were transient and disappeared quickly. The condition, which blocked the blood supply to his lower leg, was so rare that it might be encountered only once in the career of a vascular consultant.

The club was awarded costs against Mr Brady of Glasgow, who now lives on benefits. An order for the money will not be enforced unless he succeeds in an outstanding claim against two doctors who treated him.

The Link

FANTASTIC EASTER OFFERS

HURRY! ENDS SOON

TELEPHONES - SAVE OVER 50%

BT CORDLESS PHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE

- Intercom facility
- Call Intercept
- Day/Time stamp
- Model: FREESTYLE 1100
- Was £97.99

SAVE £10 **£87.99**

AUDIOLINE TELEPHONE WITH BUILT-IN DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE

- Up to 14 minutes tapeless recording
- Built-in speaker
- Model: 937
- In-store Price £54.99

SAVE £5 **£49.99**

BINATONE ANSWERING MACHINE

- Micro cassette operation
- Model: DESIGNER 240
- In-store Price £29.99

SAVE £10 **£19.99**

AUDIOLINE TELEPHONE

- 10 number memory for storing your most used numbers
- Model: TEL11
- Was £29.99 In-store Price £14.99

SAVE £17 **£12.99**

FAXES - SAVE UP TO £30

PANASONIC FAX MACHINE

- Digital answering machine with 18 minutes recording time
- Model: KXFZ780
- Was £299.99

SAVE £30 **£269.99**

PAGERS - SAVE UP TO £15

MOTOROLA PAGER

- One line, 16 character scrolling, backlit display
- Model: ALPHA EXPRESS
- Was £69.99
- In-store Price £54.99

SAVE £15 **£54.99**

SAMSUNG FAX MACHINE

- 30m paper roll
- Auto fax/phone switch
- Model: SF750

NEW **£159.99**

BT EASYREACH PHILIPS NUMERIC PAGER

- Top mounted, backlit, 12 digit display
- 4000 addresses
- Stores up to 12 messages of 20 digits
- Model: LING
- In-store Price £49.99

SAVE £15 **£34.99**

PALMTOPS - SAVE UP TO £100

PSION 8MB PALM TOP COMPUTER WITH LAPTOP STYLE KEYBOARD

- Includes Word Processing, Agenda, World Clock
- Spread-sheet, Database and Sketch software
- Model: SERIES 5
- Was £599.99

SAVE £70 **£429.99**

PALM PILOT PERSONAL INFORMATION MANAGER WITH HANDWRITING RECOGNITION

- 1Mb memory, holds up to 4000 addresses
- Model: PROFESSIONAL
- Was £299.99

SAVE £100 **£199.99**

HUNDREDS OF FANTASTIC, EXCLUSIVE EASTER OFFERS IN-STORE NOW

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS. Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Link store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount valid Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Tuesday, 21st April 1998 unless otherwise stated.

Phone Show 98
IN STORE NOW!

20% OFF

THE BIGGEST CHOICE

The largest range of communication products in the UK - mobile phones, faxes, pagers, telephones and laptop computers.

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

EXPERT ADVICE

Our expert staff are specially trained in all communication products including Gsmnet, One 2 One and Orange networks. We will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.

126 STORES NATIONWIDE

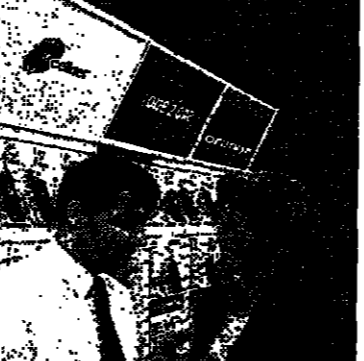
FREEPHONE 0500 222 666

For your nearest store

PLUS

SAVE UP TO 75%

ON MOBILE PHONE ACCESSORIES



The Link

10111350

Cut-price cigarette imports outlawed

FROM CHARLES BREWSTER IN BRUSSELS

A BRITISH firm that produced cigarettes from Luxembourg, which had a 10 per cent tariff on imports and said that it was breaking the rules by producing cigarettes in the European Union, has ruled that it will not do so.

s likely attack

ler lose claim for ed care

Experts set out to unravel the monster myths

THE abominable snowman may exist but is more likely to inhabit the jungles of South-East Asia than the slopes of the Himalayas.

Professor Chris Stringer, an expert in human origins, said yesterday that sightings of the mythical ape-like creature, also known as the yeti, could not be dismissed out of hand, but an ape 10ft tall could not possibly find enough to eat on Everest.

Speaking at the opening of a new exhibition, Myths and Monsters, at the Natural History Museum in London, he said: "The dense forests of South-East Asia are a far more plausible place to look. Recently a deer previously unknown to science was found in Vietnam, so there are still species to be discovered." He added: "I am not saying it is there, but I am not ruling it out, either."

The exhibition includes an animated model of what the yeti might look like, based in part on a real creature, *Gigantopithecus blacki*, whose massive jawbone was found in China. This huge ape lived alongside giant pandas and pigs and probably only became extinct in the past 100,000 years. Its jaw showed that it lived on coarse grazing, probably the same bamboo shoots that fed the pandas.

"There's not too much bamboo on Everest," Professor Stringer said. But it was just possible that *Gigantopithecus* survived somewhere. "We would need bones to compare with this fossil, or even droppings we could analyse for DNA, to prove it."

Existing evidence consists of sightings, footprints and folk memory. The yeti appears in medieval art, and in Western literature from 1832

The Yeti may yet be found in Asian jungles but most fabled beasts are bogus, reports Nigel Hawkes

onwards. Tibetan monks believe that yetis use stones to stun their prey, and walk in an ungainly manner because they carry the stones in their armpits.

However, physical evidence is lacking. A yeti scalp borrowed from a Tibetan monastery in 1960 by Sir Edmund Hillary turned out to be crafted from the hair of a Himalayan goat. Footprints found in the snow have often melted and then re-frozen, making them much larger.

The exhibition examines the whole range of mythical monsters and attempts to find plausible scientific explanations for all of them. In many cases, said Robert Bloomfield, head of exhibition research and design at the museum, monsters are prescientific descriptions of what we now know were dinosaurs.

"Manuscripts from China which are 2,000 years old make it clear that they found dinosaur fossils and believed them to be dragons," he said. "A dragon sculpture at the Golden Temple in Patan, Nepal, looks exactly like *Protoceratops*, a dinosaur."

Cyclops, the one-eyed monster of Greek mythology, derives from fossils of extinct elephants found on Mediterranean islands. These skulls have a huge central hole,

looking exactly like an eye-socket, where their trunk was connected.

Other monsters were indeed concocted, sometimes by unscrupulous sailors or showmen. In the 19th century sailors often turned the skins of skates and rays into grotesque creatures with human-like faces known as Jenny Hanivers. (The origin of this term is lost, but it may come from Jean D'Anvers, now Antwerp, where many of these concoctions originated.)

The chimera, a fabulous beast made up of the parts of several animals, appears in many cultures from ancient times. The Sphinx, the centaur (half man, half horse) the harpy (half woman, half bird) and the classical Greek chimera which combines lion, goat and serpent, are all examples.

Although all these are imaginary, genetic science has actually made chimeras possible. The genes of one creature can be combined with those of another, although the intention is not to create monsters, but sheep or cows that produce human proteins in their milk.

Sometimes real creatures are just as strange as the mythical ones. The exhibition includes a 12ft specimen of the ribbon fish, washed up on the shore at Whitby in North Yorkshire in 1981. These fish are seen only a few times a century, according to Oliver Crimmen, curator of fishes at the museum. Nobody knows what they feed on, and only once has a living specimen been filmed. Dr Crimmen said that when seen thrashing about on the surface of the sea, these fish with their silvery skins could easily explain the sightings of mythical sea serpents.



Professor Stringer with *Gigantopithecus* jawbone and an animated model

Here be devils to fright unwary souls

LEGENDARY monsters exist in many cultures. Their origins often lie in fossils. DRAGON: giant reptile-like creatures, often with wings and claws, and breathing fire. Origin likely to be discovery of dinosaur fossils 2,000 years ago in China, imaginatively reconstructed. UNICORN: a horse with a single horn in the centre of its forehead. Fossils of the giant extinct rhinoceros *Elasmotherium*, with its single 4ft horn, are found in Persia, where images of the unicorn are also found.

CYCLOPS: the one-eyed monster with a human body may originate from the skulls of ancient dwarf elephants that once lived on the Mediterranean islands. Their skulls have a single central "eye-socket".

MERMAIDS: sea mammals such as the dugong, manatee, or seal are the most plausible source. Their cries can be unnervingly human, and dugongs suckle their young with their upper body out of the water.

ROC: mythical bird of huge size from ancient Persia, it may have been inspired by the fossil eggs, a foot in length, of an extinct bird, *Aepyornis* (elephant bird).

YETI: also known as the yeren in China, the agouti in Vietnam, and bigfoot in America, the yeti is one of the most persistent of mythical monsters. Its inspiration may lie in the extinct great ape, creating a "folk-memory" that still survives.

KRAKEN: sea monsters that drag down ships with their many arms were clearly inspired by the octopus or the giant squid.

SEA SERPENT: the rare ribbon-fish, with its glittering silver skin, could be the source of rumours of sea serpents. The Japanese believe its appearance presages an earthquake.



Cyclops of Greek myth



The fairy-tale Unicorn



Kraken, the sea devil



The rapacious harpy

upset

DIGITAL SERVICE

The name of the game is Service. And the champion, revealed by a Computerworld survey, is DIGITAL - trouncing the best-known integrators in the business. We have more Microsoft-trained service professionals than TBM, Compaq and HP. Combined. So call us on 0800 393 200. Visit www.digital.com/service/nsis. And get ready to win in a networked world.

200 school buses found unsafe in police checks

Vehicles ordered off road, writes Stewart Tendler

TWO hundred school buses have been ordered off the road by police because of defects uncovered during a national road-safety crackdown. More than one in ten of the buses, minibuses and taxis used to carry children to school that were checked by police during a two-week operation last month had defects for which operators could be taken to court. The 200 most serious faults ranged from a large hole found in the floor of a minibus carrying handicapped children in the West Midlands to a 53-seater double-decker with no stop lights in Dorset. Police and government vehicle examiners also found a school Transit van that had been driven for three months with faulty rear doors, through which children could have fallen. One driver in Greater Manchester was breathalysed by officers when he was stopped and found to be over the drink-drive limit. When police reported their discoveries to local education authorities, officials immediately cancelled several school transport contracts. Forces say the bus operators are certain to be prosecuted and they have been reported to the transport

commissioners. The commissioners can take away operating licences and close companies. Another 265 drivers were told to remedy faults such as broken indicator lights within 21 days or face prosecution. A total of 3,775 school buses, minibuses and taxis were stopped in the roadside checks by 42 forces in England, Scotland and Wales. Police traffic experts said yesterday that the findings covered a small proportion of the total number of vehicles used to carry children. Vehicles under contract by private firms to carry children are covered only by MOT regulations or annual tests by the Vehicle Inspectorate. There is no age limit on the vehicles that can be used. Paul Marring, of Scotland Yard, who is a national police spokesman on traffic, said: "Children are a particularly vulnerable group and we shall be looking carefully to see if further operations are needed." The operation to check school vehicles was launched after a national conference of traffic officers expressed worry about their safety. Some forces carry out roadside checks but there has never been a full operation across

the country. The checks were made after the vehicles had deposited children at schools. They were scrutinised for child safety, vehicle maintenance, the drivers' hours on the road and their licences. Constable Annie Mitchener, a traffic intelligence officer with Dorset police and one of the co-ordinators of the operation, said many of the vehicles were taken off the road for defects such as bad brakes, tyres and steering. Constable Bob Nockalls, a traffic officer from West Midlands, said his force stopped a minibus with a hole in the floor. Examiners found that when someone lent back in the seats over the wheel arches, the seats tipped back lifting the floor plates. The 14-year-old van also had oil leaks from its rear brakes. His force also discovered a minibus with rear doors that could not be properly fastened. The operators were told about the fault three months earlier but had done nothing to fix it. A spokeswoman for the Vehicle Inspectorate said that parents would be alarmed by the results of the checks, but that school transport operators who broke safety rules could lose their licences.

Lonely heart duped suitor out of £6,000

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES



Susan Holmes advertised as a "lonely mum, looking for a permanent relationship"

NOTHING was too much for the ardent suitor that Susan Holmes, a divorced mother-of-three, met through the lonely hearts column of a local newspaper. When Alan Harrison proposed after their second meeting, Holmes asked for proof that his love was true and he handed over cheques totalling £11,000 on the understanding that they would never be cashed. But Holmes was looking for finance rather than romance, and withdrew her fiancé's life savings. Then, when Mr Harrison sought an explanation, she pretended she had never seen him before. Mr Harrison went instead to the police. Yesterday Holmes, of Ipplepen, Devon, was found guilty of two charges of fraud. She admitted other charges, including handling a stolen prescription form, and was jailed for six months. Magistrates at Newton Abbot were told that Holmes placed an advertisement as a "lonely single mum, looking for a permanent relationship". Mr Harrison, a teacher, arranged to meet her in Totnes. When Mr Harrison opened her car door for her, Holmes told him he was too polite and too well-dressed and drove away. Undeterred, Mr Harrison persuaded her to meet him again. Madeline Jackson, for the prosecution, said: "After they met he called her and said he was prepared to offer her commitment. She hesitated, then accepted his proposal. She said she wanted deeds, not words, and said she had been jilted previously. She asked for a cheque for

£5,000 and he agreed on the understanding she would not cash it." Miss Jackson said Holmes claimed not to have received the cheque. "She asked him for another cheque for £6,000 to show how sorry he was." Only the £6,000 cheque was honoured because Mr Harrison's life savings were £8,000. When he found the money was missing, Mr Harrison visited Holmes. Miss Jackson said: "She said she had never seen him before, which was perhaps the



Harrison: proposed after second meeting

final cruel stroke to him." The money has not been returned to Mr Harrison. Philip Miles, for the defence, said that Holmes had a personality disorder and health problems. She was living on £10,500 a year disability benefits. "She views herself as the victim," he said. "She believed she was being tricked into marriage." After the case, Mr Harrison said: "I am ready to start looking for happiness again and I will carry on trying to get my money back."

Dixons NEW! PROFESSIONAL QUALITY DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA FROM JVC

The JVC GR-DVL9000 is quite simply the most advanced Digital Video Camera ever! Whether you're interested in making movies with incredible special effects and clarity through the bright F1.2 lens, or a PC user, professional recording has never been simpler with the easy-to-use menu. This ultra-compact and lightweight Digital Video Camera also features an amazing built-in J-LIP Capture giving you direct connection to your PC, so you can instantly download your stills.

It all adds up to the most advanced and versatile Video Camera ever produced - and you can see it now at Dixons.

TEST DRIVE IT TODAY
Ask for a full demonstration in-store.



4" LCD SCREEN - See all your recordings in full colour and amazing clarity on this top quality mini TV screen

BUILT-IN J-LIP CAPTURE - Allows you to connect your digital video camera direct to your PC for downloading still images

- JVC GR-DVL9000 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x SUPER DIGITAL ZOOM**
- 4" LCD screen • Large F1.2 lens
- Progressive scan for optimum recording everytime.
- Easy still image transfer to PC.
- Advanced in-built editing suite
- 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

Dixons Deal
£1799.99

FIRST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY **Dixons**

ONLINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk
*Interest free option: Account to interest free if repaid in full before or with the 12th monthly payment. Typical Dixons Deal: Cash price £1799.99, 10% deposit of £180.00, loan amount £1619.99, 0% interest, 12 monthly payments of £134.99 and the balance of £282.00 before or with the 12th monthly payment. (Total amount £1799.99 inclusive of VAT)
29 APR 48 monthly payments of £54.76 (Total amount £2628.48, APR 29.9%)

Pub managers' pay is no small beer

By ROBIN YOUNG

PUBLIC house managers are now among Britain's top earning professionals, according to salary figures published yesterday. They now earn up to £40,000 a year and are better paid than teachers, firemen, nurses and several white-collar professions. The benefits of living free "above the shop" and not having to travel to work is calculated to be worth an extra £5,000 a year, according to the survey by Leisure Careers UK. Average annual pay in the licensed trade is around £25,000 for managers but many couples earn £70,000 between them. Seven in ten pub companies offer annual bonuses, more than half provide company pensions, and more than half pay commission on sales. Other perks include private health insurance and share options, particularly for those who work for the big brewers. The trade is expected to create 250,000 new jobs between now and the millennium. Training schemes start with apprenticeships for teenagers who can start learning how to run a pub even before they are old enough to buy a drink. Maureen Heffernan, head of careers for the British Institute of Innkeeping, said: "The licensed retail revolution continues at breakneck pace. This survey demonstrates that a career in the sector delivers the lifestyle and development demanded by tomorrow's workforce. At a relatively young age licensed professionals are managing complex multimillion pound businesses with responsibility for the development of up to 60 staff." Chris Reeve, of the pub chain JD Wetherspoon, said: "Today's managers running pubs turning over seven-figure sums are very well paid by any standards, even before benefits are considered."

DNA test on girls after baby killed

POLICE hunting the killer of a newborn baby are to carry out DNA tests on girls absent from school on the day he was found. They are writing to the parents of around 100 schoolgirls in Warrington, Cheshire, asking for their permission. The baby boy's body was found in a bin bag three weeks ago in a wood close to a theme park on the outskirts of the town. He had been strangled within two hours of birth. Three secondary schools in the area have co-operated with police to identify the girls who were off sick on that day. A police spokesman said the testing was quick, painless and non-intrusive. "It is a process of elimination that is vital to any inquiry. We want to eliminate everything on the periphery so we can focus on the nub of the inquiry." Police are still hunting for two men, aged about 18, one of them carrying a bin liner, seen near the spot where the body was discovered.

Take five to Belgium on a short break

ONLY £55* RETURN for Car + 5.
Dover-Ostend

*72 hour ticket. Fares valid up to 30th June 1998

Be different. Be delighted. Take a real break. and you're there in under 2 hours.
Fabulous food. Strong beer. Beaches, shops and Old Masters. Take a break. Take a SeaCat.

Go Dover-Ostend. Take in Bruges and Antwerp. Contact your travel agent or call Reservations: **0990 595 522**
Ask about our great accommodation deals. <http://www.hoverspeed.co.uk>
Plus, with Hoverspeed you can choose from our 2,500 international brands, duty and tax-free.
A 72-hour ticket is only £55 return for a car+5

HOVER SPEED
FAST SERVICES

Fares valid to 30th June. £10 supplement for Saturday travel and for bookings made on day of travel. Limited space, subject to availability. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel subject to Hoverspeed's terms and conditions.

سكننا في الأما

Beijing premier hailed by Blair as moderniser

TONY BLAIR said after two summit meetings yesterday with Zhu Rongji, the new Chinese Prime Minister, that he was "in no doubt that he was in the company of a fellow moderniser", according to his official spokesman.

The Prime Minister was so impressed by the no-nonsense reform programme of Mr Zhu that he told him that there was "massive respect and admiration" in Britain for his courage in pushing this through.

Two immediate results of the talks were Beijing's granting of the first licence to a British insurance company to operate in China, and permission for European Union ambassadors to pay an unprecedented visit to Tibet next month.

In a clear echo of Lady Thatcher's first comment on meeting Mikhail Gorbachev before he became Soviet leader, Mr Blair said: "We have done business with him." His spokesman added: "We believe that these bilateral talks represent a fresh start in Sino-British relations since the successful transition of Hong Kong in June." Mr Blair was said to be "fascinated" by the Chinese leader

Downing Street shows 'massive respect' for Zhu reforms, Michael Binyon writes

and "very impressed" by the scale of his proposed reforms. He has accepted an invitation to visit China in October.

Mr Zhu promised that China would give a licence to the Royal and Sun Alliance to open an office in Beijing, the first time that a British company has been allowed to sell financial services in the People's Republic, and said other insurance companies would soon follow. He also indicated that a new air agreement with Britain giving greater access to Beijing would soon be signed.

Immediately afterwards Mr Blair was joined by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, and Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner responsible for relations with Beijing, for the first EU summit with China, which was dominated by trade and human rights issues. In a clear response to the EU's decision not to raise concerns about China's human rights record at the United Nations, China is to allow

three EU ambassadors to visit Tibet to investigate reports of human rights violations.

China and the EU agreed to intensify their high-level contacts, including possible annual summits and to sustain a "non-confrontational dialogue" on human rights. Mr Santer said a "new era" had started in relations with China.

The EU summit also focused on China's application to join the World Trade Organisation, and affirmed a commitment to securing China's entry. The EU welcomed China's decision to ratify the UN Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and its intention to sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr Blair also met Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, at No 10 yesterday. Along with the leaders of Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, Mr Hashi-

moto is in London for today's second Asia-Europe summit talks.

Mr Blair voiced Britain's concern over China's human rights record, but did not present Mr Zhu with any list of dissidents. But he said Europe was worried by the extensive use of the death penalty, especially in Tibet. About 30 demonstrators outside Downing Street called for an end to Chinese rule in Tibet. He also spoke of British worries over the huge trade gap with China. British exports accounted for £920 million compared with imports last year of £2.5 billion.

Mr Zhu, making his first visit overseas since becoming Prime Minister, has so far impressed British businessmen and politicians as self-confident, decisive and with a command of English. He told businessmen on Wednesday that after the handover in Hong Kong, nothing stood in the way of a more co-operative Sino-British relationship.

Mr Zhu promised that China would not abandon its Asian friends in their economic difficulties and would not devalue the yuan, which would undercut their exports.



Tony Blair greets Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday. The Asia-Europe summit starts today

Asia looks to Europe for help

By MICHAEL BINYON AND DAVID WATTS

THE Asian financial crisis dwarfed all other issues as the second Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) began with a dinner last night.

Asian eyes are on the Europeans to help out in the light of the massive increase in trade between the two blocs over the past few years, while Japan has been criticised for failing to do more to help the South-East Asian countries to export their way out of trouble.

"We're heavily involved — the numbers testify to that and then to have people say it's not enough — it's not fair," said a Japanese source. "A Japanese recovery would help, but it would not be a panacea."

Britain yesterday told the leaders of the ten East Asian nations hit by last year's financial crisis that it will contribute £5 million to a World Bank fund to provide financial expertise.

The 15 European Union members agreed to contribute to a \$25 million (£14.7 million) Asem Trust Fund.

John Lloyd, page 22
Sony gloom, page 27



Helmut Kohl and Friedrich Bohl, the Chancellery Minister, in parliament in Bonn yesterday

German court ends legal challenge to Kohl's euro dream

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

IN a double boost to the German Chancellor's ambition to push through monetary union, his country's highest court yesterday threw out a legal challenge to the euro, and parliament signalled its backing for the project.

"Economic and monetary union will begin punctually on January 1, 1999. That is in the interests of Europe and in our own German interests," Helmut Kohl told parliament after receiving the news that the Constitutional Court had rejected as "clearly ungrounded" two petitions designed to prevent the start of currency union. "Today it is clear that the timetable and convergence [criteria] will be fulfilled," said Herr Kohl, who backed last week's recommendations by the European Commission to admit 11 countries into economic and monetary union (EMU).

As parliament began a key debate on EMU, for which it is expected to vote in favour at the end of this month, the court in Karlsruhe announced that it had dismissed two legal appeals that could have affected the monetary union deadline if successful. Four professors had brought a suit in which they claimed that the

euro would be weaker than the mark because Bonn had "fudged" the qualifying criteria in the Maastricht treaty. But the court ruled that there was scope within the treaty's terms to deal with economic side-effects.

"The Government and parliament can make use of this in taking responsibility for securing the value of money," the court concluded. The ruling has scuppered any further legal challenges to EMU.

"That's it as far as my case is concerned. Now the euro will come," said Manfred Brunner, the celebrated German Eurosceptic, who had filed a similar petition to the same court.

Herr Kohl, who opened the parliamentary debate, dismissed claims by his Social Democrat challenger in September's general election, Gerhard Schröder, that the new currency would have "a sickly, premature birth".

"The Chancellor declared: 'I have absolutely no understanding of this statement.'"

The Bill proposing the euro's introduction later won overwhelming approval in the Bundestag, the lower house. But the two houses still have to give formal approval.

Fear over gay serial killer revived in Italy

By RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE murder of a 50-year-old art restorer in Perugia has revived fears among Italy's homosexuals that a gay serial killer is still on the loose, despite the arrest of Eastern European immigrants suspected of carrying out earlier killings.

Police said they were following up a "homosexual lead" in the murder of Professor Piero Notiani, although a killing by a woman was "not excluded". Professor Notiani, an expert in restoring Umbrian art treas-

ures, had been struck on the head, probably with a statuette found near the body. He was killed in his elegant apartment in an old palazzo in Perugia, and the dinner table had been laid for two. Police said that he apparently knew his killer.

Neighbours said that Professor Notiani was a "quiet and highly cultured man". He was married with a child, but had separated.

He had a number of male visitors, and newspapers said the killing bore a "strong resemblance" to over twenty previous gay murders, the last two being in January.

Tyres and Exhausts

All at one price

Kwik-Fit

TYRES COST LESS

GUARANTEED

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE

Should you ever find another local company offering the same tyre at an even lower price within 7 days of your purchase we will gladly refund you more than the difference.

TYRES COST-U-LESS AT KWIK-FIT

NEW TYRES FROM ONLY £11.90

EG TO FIT: PANDA, FIESTA, PEUGEOT 104, RENAULT 4. 135x13

STEEL BRACED RADIALS TO FIT	TYRE SIZE	FROM ONLY
ORION, PEUGEOT 205, NOVA	145X13	£15.50
CIVIC, GOLF, CHERRY, SUNNY	155X13	£16.75
MÓNTEGO, CAVALIER 1.6, SIERRA	165X13	£18.95
CITROEN AX, CINQUECENTO, PEUGEOT 106	145/70X13	£19.50
UNO, MICRA, FIESTA, SEAT IBIZA	155/70X13	£19.75
PEUGEOT 309, TIPO, CORSA	165/70X13	£22.50
ESCORT, ASTRA, VOLVO 340	175/70X13	£24.75
NISSAN PRAIRIE, ALFA ROMEO 75	185/70X13	£25.90
MAZDA 929, CARLTON, MERCEDES 123	175X14	£26.95
GRANADA, CARLTON, VOLVO 240	185/70X14	£28.50
VOLVO 440, CITROEN BZ, PEUGEOT 306	175/65X14	£34.95
FIESTA XR2i, CITROEN AX GTI	185/60HR13	£29.90
AUDI 80, BMW 320i, SIERRA 2.0i	195/60HR14	£29.90
GRANADA, BLUEBIRD, RENAULT 25TX	185/70HR14	£29.95
MIDI, URVAN, FORD TRANSIT	185R14 VAN TYRES	£29.90

ALL KWIK-FIT PRICES INCLUDE FITTING AND VAT.

TOP QUALITY BRITISH MADE REMOULDS

FROM ONLY **£9.95**

145x13 £11.90 155x13 £12.90
165x13 £12.90 175x13 £15.90

RECYCLED TYRES THAT DON'T COST THE EARTH!

SPECIAL BUY!

LIMITED STOCK OF 185/60H14

TO FIT

Now ONLY **£28.90**

At our GTE, Rover 216 GTi 1.6i, Volvo 460, Fiat Bravo, Alfa 203 2.7 Spirit, Honda Concerto, Hyundai Lantra etc.

OPEN 7 DAYS

Monday-Friday: 8.00am-8.00pm
Saturday: 8.00am-5.00pm
SUNDAY: 9.00am-5.00pm

Contact your local Centre to confirm extended opening hours

CALL FREE

AND YOU'RE STRAIGHT THROUGH TO YOUR NEAREST KWIK-FIT CENTRE.

0800 222111

سكنا في اللوا

looks rope help

financial crisis

Meeting with a dinner last

re on the Europe in the light of the

ily involved - the ity to that and then

sterday told the lead. n East Asian nations

John Lloyd, page 23

Papon guilty of war crimes

The Nazi collaborator's ten-year jail sentence has drawn criticism from all sides, Ben Macintyre in Bordeaux writes

MAURICE PAPON was yesterday found guilty of complicity in crimes against humanity for his role in deporting Jews to Nazi death camps during the Second World War. But in a compromise verdict that drew protest from all sides, the jury in Bordeaux sentenced the retired civil servant and former cabinet minister to ten years in prison, half the term demanded by prosecutors.

After an overnight deliberating session, the jury of three magistrates and nine civilians ruled that Papon, 87, had illegally arrested and detained Jews as a senior official of the collaborationist Vichy regime. The panel cleared him of the most serious charges of murder. The verdict, following a gruelling six-month trial, was criticised yesterday by prosecutors, lawyers representing civil plaintiffs and Papon's defence team, which immediately vowed to appeal against the sentence.

lead lawyer, condemned the verdict as "confused" and vowed to appeal to the French Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights to have it overturned. Jewish groups said that a ten-year sentence was too lenient. Simon Wiesenthal, the veteran Nazi-hunter, insisted that Papon should have received a life sentence for his established part in the Nazi genocide. The ten-year sentence merely represented a "symbolic judgment, which

amounts to about two and half days per victim", he said. The prosecution had asked for a 20-year sentence, arguing that Papon, as secretary-general of the Bordeaux region from 1942 to 1944, had helped to organise the arrest and deportation of at least 1,500 Jews, almost all of whom were murdered at Auschwitz. Papon, who returned to court early yesterday morning after the jury finished nearly 19 hours of deliberations, showed no emotion

as the verdict was read out. Asked what his client felt about the ruling, M Varaut replied: "Contempt, Contempt. He expected it." He added "This is not over yet." Papon's wife, Paulette, died of cancer last week and her husband blamed her death on the trial. Civil plaintiffs in the case, whose relatives died in the concentration camps, waited all night outside the Bordeaux Palace of Justice, only to hear a verdict that many described as lukewarm. "We are not satisfied with the sentence, but we are happy justice has been done," Alain Jakubowicz, a lawyer representing several Jewish groups, said.

the trial, were divided on the merits of the verdict. Arno Klarsfeld, the lawyer son of Serge Klarsfeld, the French Nazi-hunter, said he was fully satisfied because "the man and the Vichy apparatus were convicted". Michel Zaoui, however, another lawyer for civil plaintiffs, described the decision as "politically correct". Papon enjoyed a stellar post-war career, rising to become Budget Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, until 1981 when his wartime past was revealed. Charges against him were blocked by the French authorities for 16 years to avoid the embarrassment of a trial, but in 1991, Papon told a news conference that he was tired of being hounded by accusation and wanted to go on trial.



Varaut: Papon's lawyer was not surprised by verdict

Papon in 1947: after the war his political career soared

During the trial, the longest in French history, Papon denied having any knowledge of the fate of the deportees, and the prosecution's inability to convince the jury otherwise probably explains why the most serious murder charges were dismissed. The jury found Papon guilty of actively organising four out of eight train convoys of Jews dispatched from the notorious holding camp at Drancy to the Nazi death camps. Lawyers for the civil plaintiffs, who have squabbled throughout

the trial, were divided on the merits of the verdict. Arno Klarsfeld, the lawyer son of Serge Klarsfeld, the French Nazi-hunter, said he was fully satisfied because "the man and the Vichy apparatus were convicted". Michel Zaoui, however, another lawyer for civil plaintiffs, described the decision as "politically correct". Papon enjoyed a stellar post-war career, rising to become Budget Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, until 1981 when his wartime past was revealed. Charges against him were blocked by the French authorities for 16 years to avoid the embarrassment of a trial, but in 1991, Papon told a news conference that he was tired of being hounded by accusation and wanted to go on trial.



Maurice Papon before yesterday's verdict. Even if the verdict is upheld, ill-health is likely to prevent him serving his sentence

Leading article, page 23

Russian Mayor arrested four days after poll

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

POLICE in Russia's third largest city yesterday arrested the newly elected Mayor, whose long criminal history has angered the Kremlin and led to calls for tighter restrictions on those who hold public office.

Andrei Klimentyev, a twice-convicted criminal who is currently being tried for stealing £1.5 million from a state loan, was detained by police at the main courthouse in Nizhny Novgorod, amid demonstrations from his supporters in the street.

The burly businessman, 43, won the mayoral election on Sunday with 34 per cent of the vote. Although he initially declared that he was now "the boss" and "untouchable", his reign was short-lived. On Wednesday, the election was declared invalid. Yesterday, the victor was dragged off to prison after the personal intervention of President Yeltsin.

A judge ordered Mr Klimentyev's detention because he did not respect restrictions placed on his movements in the region, the Tass news agency reported. The regional electoral committee had invalidated his mayoral victory on the ground of suspected fraud during the election campaign.

Despite the crackdown, it is not all clear that Mr Klimentyev's political career is over, and before his arrest he vowed to be voted back into office when elections are held in three months.

During his campaign he did not try to hide his past and voters supported him despite his bodyguards, black jeeps and designer suits, the usual trappings of Russian mobsters. Like other shady figures

who have reached high office in Russia, the local businessman portrayed himself as a competent administrator who was prepared to share some of his wealth with the people. Among his more popular pledges was a promise to the elderly to open shops where they could buy cheap meat.

Before his arrest, the Mayor declared that he was being victimised by Kremlin leaders who "spit on the electors of Nizhny Novgorod", a view which may receive some sympathy among the provincial voters, who traditionally resent Moscow's intervention.

The scandal in Nizhny Novgorod - formerly known as Gorky, is hugely embarrassing for the Kremlin, which has promoted the city as the cradle of its economic reform programme. Both Baroness Thatcher and John Major visited the ancient Russian city on the Volga during prime ministerial trips.

The city is also the hometown of Sergei Kiriyenko, the newly appointed Prime Minister, and his deputy Boris Nemtsov, who as a former governor of Nizhny Novgorod was closely associated with Mr Klimentyev until the two fell out.

Yesterday, Aleksandr Ivanchenko, the chairman of the Central Election Commission, proposed that President Yeltsin toughen the selection process for candidates and force nominees to reveal their criminal records, dual citizenship, incomes and assets.

However, his proposals will be difficult to pass through the Duma, the lower house of parliament, which itself has scores of members with long criminal histories.

Le Pen convicted of assault on rival

By Ben Macintyre

THE leader of France's far-right National Front, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was convicted yesterday of assaulting a female political opponent during last year's election campaign and banned from holding political office.

Le Pen was fined £23,000 (£2,300), handed a suspended three-month prison sentence and stripped of his civil rights for two years by the court in Versailles, during which time he would be barred from standing for political office.

This means that Le Pen, a member of the European Parliament since 1994, could be ineligible to run in next year's European parliamentary elections, but since he is certain to appeal against the verdict, the ban will be suspended until a final ruling is handed down, a process that could take at least two years.

Last month Le Pen gave a dark warning that his supporters might rebel and "threaten civil peace" if he were barred from public office. The National Front leader, who will be 70 this year, was found guilty of assaulting, among others, Annette Peulvast-Bergal, a Socialist MP.

After the fracas Le Pen allegedly heard to say: "That made me feel young again."



Le Pen: two-year ban

from Kwik-Fit. - the lowest!

A message to all Kwik-Fit customers from Sir Tom, Chairman of Kwik-Fit.

"We service millions of cars every year and we try very hard to give our customers the highest standards of service at all times. If you have any suggestions as to how we could improve our service, please speak to your local Kwik-Fit Manager, or write to me at Kwik-Fit, 17 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6DD and you can be sure that the matter will be handled immediately."

John Farmer
SIR TOM FARMER CBE
Chairman

YOU CAN'T BEAT KWIK-FIT FOR EXHAUSTS

Where else can you buy quality exhaust systems with a 3 year guarantee at prices like these?

<p>ALL ONE PRICE £29.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £39.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £49.99</p>
<p>ALL ONE PRICE £59.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £64.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £69.99</p>
<p>ALL ONE PRICE £79.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £84.99</p>	<p>ALL ONE PRICE £89.99</p>

NEW 3 YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE GUARANTEE ON COMPLETE SYSTEMS

All complete exhaust systems guaranteed for 3 years unlimited mileage. FREE repair or replacement for the first 2 years. 50% OFF the prevailing price in the 3rd year.

BUY NOW PAY NOTHING UNTIL AUGUST

4 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

Open an Autocharge Card Account, spend £100 or more and pay nothing for 120 days. Then pay in full with no interest.

OR PAY LATER

Open an Autocharge Card Account, spend £100 or more and pay nothing for 120 days. Then, within the Autocharge terms, you can spread the repayments - paying as much as you want, when you want.

BRAKE • SAFE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

This must be the best guarantee ever on brake pads and shoes!

When Kwik-Fit replace your brake pads or shoes, they are guaranteed against accidental damage, defects and yes, even wear, for as long as you own your car.

BRAKE PADS AND SHOES GUARANTEED FOR AS LONG AS YOU OWN YOUR CAR

The Kwik-Fit Lifetime Guarantee on brake pads and shoes applies once you have had them replaced at any Kwik-Fit to carry out any work found to be necessary. For full details, contact your local Kwik-Fit Centre.

Car Model	Front Brake Pads From £	Rear Brake Shoes From £
FORD SIERRA	£24.95	£34.95
VAUXHALL CADILLAC	£25.95	£39.95
VOLVO 340,360	£29.95	£29.95
ROVER 213	£34.95	£39.95

*The 4 month interest free credit offer applies only to customers who open an Autocharge Card Account. Typical monthly repayments for a £1000 purchase over 24 months are £41.67. Repayments are based on a 12% APR. Repayments are based on a 12% APR. Repayments are based on a 12% APR. Repayments are based on a 12% APR.

• Tyres • Exhausts • Brakes
• Batteries • Shock Absorbers
• Oil Changes • Child Safety Seats

Kwik-Fit

222 777

ts
ce

U-LES
NIK-FIT

1.99

£10.00
£11.95
£12.95
£13.95
£14.95
£15.95
£16.95
£17.95
£18.95
£19.95
£20.95
£21.95
£22.95
£23.95
£24.95
£25.95
£26.95
£27.95
£28.95
£29.95
£30.95
£31.95
£32.95
£33.95
£34.95
£35.95
£36.95
£37.95
£38.95
£39.95
£40.95
£41.95
£42.95
£43.95
£44.95
£45.95
£46.95
£47.95
£48.95
£49.95
£50.95
£51.95
£52.95
£53.95
£54.95
£55.95
£56.95
£57.95
£58.95
£59.95
£60.95
£61.95
£62.95
£63.95
£64.95
£65.95
£66.95
£67.95
£68.95
£69.95
£70.95
£71.95
£72.95
£73.95
£74.95
£75.95
£76.95
£77.95
£78.95
£79.95
£80.95
£81.95
£82.95
£83.95
£84.95
£85.95
£86.95
£87.95
£88.95
£89.95
£90.95
£91.95
£92.95
£93.95
£94.95
£95.95
£96.95
£97.95
£98.95
£99.95
£100.95

NG AND VAT.

L FREE
FRAGHT THROUGH TO
KWIK-FIT CENTRE.

222 777

Starr insists his inquiry can continue

THE sudden dismissal of the Paula Jones sexual harassment case against Bill Clinton marked the blackest day of Kenneth Starr's four-year, \$40 million (£24 million) investigation of the President.

The independent prosecutor rushed to say that the dismissal of Mrs Jones's civil case would not affect his inquiry into alleged criminal behaviour by the President. The ruling "has no effect on our authority and we will continue working to complete the investigation as expeditiously as possible", he said.

He denied that he would be even more vulnerable to accusations that he is conducting a political vendetta against the President.

"You will see us sleeping very well at night because we know we are professionals doing a job," he said. "It's a law job, not a political job. Facts and law, that's what we deal with, not politics, not public relations."

But for all his poise, Mr Starr is now under intense pressure to wrap up his inquiry, bring charges and file a report to Congress, or formally exonerate those who have been dragged into the widening web of his inquiry.

Former federal prosecutors compared his task to "picking over the entrails of a dead thing, a difficult if not impossible task for a prosecutor".

Speaking yesterday outside his home in McLean, Virginia, an affluent Washington suburb, Mr Starr said that "the real question we're examining is whether crimes were committed". Allegations of perjury, inciting others to commit perjury and intimidation of witnesses "are very serious charges", he said.

Stephen Hess, a senior

Prosecutor now under intense pressure to act, writes Bronwen Maddox

Brookings Institution scholar, said: "The Jones case was just a civil matter. The Starr investigation is something that can lead to impeachment, and that's much more damaging."

In January, Mr Starr was given the go-ahead by a federal court to extend his original investigation into murky Arkansas land dealings to the President's relations with Monica Lewinsky, a former White House trainee. He is trying to establish whether the President lied under oath about a sexual affair with Ms Lewinsky to Mrs Jones's lawyers, or encouraged the for-

INVESTIGATION

mer trainee to lie. But it is clear that Mr Starr's case is hampered legally as well as politically.

The best legal brains in the land tussled yesterday over the trickiest question now facing Mr Starr: whether there are legal grounds to press criminal charges such as perjury arising from a civil case which no longer exists.

For a normal prosecutor, the collapse of the civil case would almost certainly be the end of the story, and Mr Starr acknowledged yesterday that he had not researched any precedents.

In theory, if he believes he has proof that the President or Ms Lewinsky lied, he could decide to prosecute. If he believes he has found possible grounds for impeachment, he is also bound to hand a full report to Congress.

But for all his protestations of impartiality, the independent prosecutor has inhabited a half-world between politics and law, and every step he takes is complicated by the political sensitivity of the greatest scandal to hit President Clinton's time at the Oval Office.

The Lewinsky saga, which would never have seen the light of day without the Jones case, burst on a stunned Washington and injected new life into Mr Starr's floundering investigation. It offered to rescue Mr Starr from his painful paralysis: legally unable to bring charges against the Clintons, and politically unable to drop the investigation without a resolution.

But in the past few weeks, Mr Starr has again showed a talent for snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Public hostility has risen as he cast a dragnet over the whole of Washington to pull in witnesses before his grand jury, forcing Ms Lewinsky's mother to testify against her daughter.

The risk that Mr Starr runs in continuing to pursue President Clinton is that even more Americans will be convinced he is under the influence of the President's opponents, the view many now hold of Mrs Jones herself.

The message from Capitol Hill yesterday was unambiguous: whatever you are going to do, do it quickly.

Leading article, page 23



President Clinton and his wife Hillary look out of "the door of no return" at the Slave House on Goree Island, Senegal, yesterday. The Clintons visited the island on the last day of their 12-day tour of Africa

Clinton beats the drum of victory

By BRONWEN MADDOX

WHEN the momentous news from Little Rock reached him in Dakar, Senegal, President Clinton began beating an African drum in jubilation, putting it down to begin exuberantly strumming on a guitar. Later, dressed in a faded pink T-shirt, he leaned on the balcony of Le Meridien hotel smoking a large cigar, the picture of a man at peace with the world.

But if the future looked brighter to Mr Clinton last night as he returned triumphantly to Washington after his 12-day African tour, his advisers will warn him he is not out of the woods yet. He has won an unexpected victory in the sex wars that have dogged his presidency, but the legal and political fight is hardly over.

As Kenneth Starr, the prosecutor, stressed yesterday, the legally separate criminal investigation into whether the President committed perjury in the Paula Jones case is likely to outlive the civil charges that gave rise to it.

Many senior Democrats and Republicans said yesterday that impeachment was

POLITICAL FIGHT

now "off the table". Although Mr Starr may well send a damning report to Congress, it is almost inconceivable that Republicans would press ahead with impeachment proceedings based on a civil case that no longer exists, against a President whose popularity is climbing daily.

The President can also expect relations with Congress to return to normal. Mr Clinton can now count on more straightforward relations with Democrats in the looming battles over the tobacco settlement and financing of the International Monetary Fund.

Republicans, too, are relieved that in the run-up to the crucial November mid-term elections, they can attack him on conventional grounds of policy, without fear that playing the moral card against such a popular president could hurt them.

But as Mr Clinton tries to salvage his last 34 months in the White House, he is likely to find that the scandal has damaged his reputation. Most Americans believe he has lied over his extramarital affairs and lacks moral stature.

There is still the question, moreover, of how he will pay his legal bills. The new Clinton legal defence fund, which has just started to raise money, may find it harder now that the Paula Jones case has collapsed.

Jones and family begin journey back to obscurity



Jones: "She was never in it for the money"

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PAULA JONES remained secluded with her husband and two young sons in their Long Beach apartment yesterday, contemplating a bleak future but insisting she could continue to fight her sexual harassment suit against President Clinton.

Less than a year ago the evangelist's daughter from Lonoke, Arkansas, had screamed with delight on hearing of a Supreme Court ruling that allowed her to pursue the case in court. "You know, I feel like I've been done dirty, and now this. I got my faith back in

ACCUSER

the system," she had told her lawyer.

The course of her faith was altered dramatically on Wednesday evening when Judge Susan Webber Wright dismissed her case more than a month before Mrs Jones was to have enjoyed her long-awaited day in court.

Like everyone else, she had heard the early reports on television, but it fell to Susan Carpenter-McMillan, her trusted adviser, to confirm the news.

"She said, 'Is it true?' and I said 'Yes' — and she cried,"

said Mrs Carpenter-McMillan, who took comforting orange juice, milk, ice lollies, salsa and chips for Mrs Jones. Steve, her husband, and their children, Madison, five, and Preston, 18 months.

She also included a carton of cigarettes and two cigars for the parents as they stared once more into obscurity.

Rarely has anyone risen so swiftly from anonymity as Mrs Jones, whose legal claim almost four years ago that Mr Clinton asked her to perform oral sex in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991 bounced her from a minor Arkansas state job to the national spotlight within a matter of weeks.

She had been lambasted by the liberal establishment in Washington as sleazy, vulgar, gold-digging white trash. Her brother expressed doubts about her credibility, and one of her sisters said she simply wanted money.

But she achieved a semblance of credibility with the high court decision and, combined with the benefits of a personal hairdresser, devoid of braids and sporting a wardrobe of suitable suits, she had offered a serious challenge to the President.

Now she faces the same old questions again: that her curious distortion of the American dream was inspired by conser-

vatives and fuelled by a husband who wanted to be a film star.

A counter clerk at Northwest Airlines, Mr Jones has been jobbing around Hollywood since the couple moved to California. His single claim to fame was as the ghost of Elvis in a little known film, *Mystery Train*. Presley had been an icon to Mr Clinton and Mrs Jones, who identified the rock star as an expression of their common longing to escape the asphyxia of the small-town South.

Mrs Jones is now said to be considering a return to her roots, but her husband still wants an acting career and

few Arkansans increasingly are weary of the media circus she has created in Little Rock.

Although she has never given a full interview, and most Americans believe something took place in the hotel room, there is little left for publishers and screen agents. "Regardless of what everybody said, we've never sought books or movie deals," said Mrs Carpenter-McMillan. "She has never been in it for the money."

She said Mrs Jones would almost certainly appeal. That could take months — and the case is almost certain not to be tried during the President's tenure.

President's former student emerged as his saviour

By TOM RHODES

THE judge who dismissed the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, Susan Webber Wright, first met Bill Clinton 24 years ago while taking his course in admiralty law at the University of Arkansas, persuading the future President to award her a higher final result when he lost her exam paper. Some critics claimed yesterday she had rewarded her former law professor in spades.

"It's an outrage. She should have excused herself," was a regular message to KARN-AM, the local talk radio in Little Rock, Arkansas.

But even Mr Clinton's most vehement enemies recognised that, while

THE JUDGE

she was born in Texarkana, Judge Wright could not be considered part of the former Governor's coterie or political machine in Arkansas.

Indeed the federal justice, appointed by President Bush in 1990, is a lifelong Republican who campaigned and helped win victory for John Paul Hammerschmidt, Mr Clinton's opponent in the congressional race of 1974.

Since her appointment her cases have been closely intertwined with Mr Clinton's fate. Before this week's ruling, by far the most important she has ever made, Judge Wright was

best known for jailing Susan McDougal. Mr Clinton's former Whitewater partner, for contempt of court in the inquiry brought by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

Three years ago, she granted the President's request to delay any trial in the Jones case until after he left office, a ruling ultimately reversed last year by the Supreme Court.

"Judge Wright, you may remember, was the judge who wanted to delay this case anyway till the President was out of office," said John Whitehead, president of the

Rutherford Institute that has financed Mrs Jones's claim. "That was lost on appeal."

She has courted controversy throughout the various cases, acknowledging in January that she should not privately have met David Pryor, an Arkansas senator and Clinton loyalist who pleaded for the release of Mrs McDougal.

A month later, Robert Wright, her husband and also a law professor, told *The Washington Post* that he and his wife often discussed pending cases. He predicted that she would not allow the Jones trial to turn into an examination of Mr Clinton's personal life.

Mr Wright, who later said his

comments had been off the record, intimated that he had been an adviser in some of his wife's rulings in the Jones case, including her decision to exclude any evidence of the reported affair between the President and Monica Lewinsky, a former White House trainee.

The story was deeply embarrassing for the judge but lawyers in Little Rock last night described her as scrupulously objective.

With any appeal certain to continue until Mr Clinton is a private citizen once more, Judge Wright will now be remembered as a justice who ensured that she would not become the first judge in history to try a sitting President.



Susan Webber Wright: Republican appointee

Warp speed notebook. The next generation.



- INTEL MOBILE PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 266MHz
- INTEL 440BX MOBILE CHIPSET
- 13.3" XGA SCREEN (1024 X 768) TFT COLOUR DISPLAY
- 48MB RAM
- 512MB HIGH PERFORMANCE CACHE
- 3.2GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- 24X MODULAR CD-ROM DRIVE AND 3.5" FLOPPY DISK DRIVES
- EXTRA HIGH PERFORMANCE 128-BIT PCI GRAPHICS CONTROLLER WITH 2MB VIDEO RAM
- INFRARED COMMUNICATION PORT (IRDA 1.1 COMPATIBLE)
- ZOOMED VIDEO SUPPORT
- 2 CARDS/PICMG TYPE II SLOTS OR 1 TYPE III
- INTEGRATED SYMPHONY TOUCHPAD
- USB PORT
- LITHIUM ION "INTELLIGENT" BATTERY
- MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION
- EXECUTIVE CARRY CASE

£1,999 (£2,384.08)



The Dell Inspiron™ 3200 D266 XT notebook is here, incorporating Intel's latest, fastest-ever mobile processor - the 266MHz mobile Pentium® II processor. What's more, we've matched the lightning-fast processor with the latest Intel 440BX mobile chipset - bringing desktop power and performance

to the notebook user. Read through the spec. and we're sure you'll agree that for just £1,999.00 (£2,384.08 inc. Del. & VAT) the Dell Inspiron 3200 D266 XT is the logical choice. Then call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer on 0870 1524677 or log on to www.dell.co.uk/buydell and we'll beam one down to you.

THE FIRST MOBILE PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR

GET ONLINE TO THE NUMBER ONE
0870 1524677
BETWEEN 9AM & 9PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM TO 6PM FRIDAY, 9AM TO 6PM SATURDAY
www.dell.com/uk/buydell



سكنا من الأنا

French 'turned blind eye' to Tutsi massacre

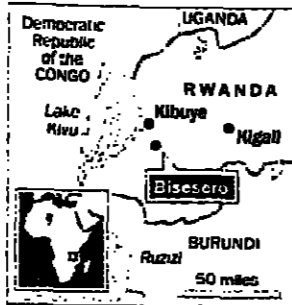
BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH troops sent to Rwanda on a humanitarian mission ignored the pleas of wounded Tutsis, leaving 1,000 people to be slaughtered by Hutu killers working as guides for the French during the 1994 genocide.

The killings, which could have been averted if the French troops had heeded the appeals of the Tutsis, are disclosed in a few sentences of a harrowing report published today by African Rights, a London-based human rights organisation.

The troops, Marine commandos under the command of Captain Marin Gillier, had been told of the plight of the Tutsis in Biseseo, a hillside hamlet near Lake Kivu, by *The Times* on the day they arrived in Rwanda, June 26, 1994, as part of Operation Turquoise, a humanitarian mission backed by the United Nations.

The aim of the mission led by the French was to prevent continuing massacres of Tutsis and Hutu moderates. But events at the time and subsequent revelations, which



have prompted the French Government to open a parliamentary inquiry into the actions of its troops in Rwanda, indicate a high level of collusion with the Hutu killers.

The *Times* gave the map co-ordinates of Biseseo to the French and said, after a frightening tour of the area: "Large numbers of Tutsis are being killed as we speak. You must go in and stop them." This encounter was filmed and broadcast by CNN.

The French commandos did drive into Biseseo. But they did nothing to save lives. Instead, they entered the area accompanied by people identified as leading members of the *Interahamwe*, the genocidal Hutu militia, and at first refused to believe that the

Tutsis were in danger. Hutu leaders had told Captain Gillier that the Tutsis were "infiltrators" from the Tutsi-led rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

According to Rakiya Omaar, director of Africa Rights, who interviewed survivors of the Biseseo massacres and has compiled the most authoritative work on the genocide, the Tutsis of Biseseo numbered only 2,000 on July 26. There had been 50,000 Tutsis in the region before the killing began. They had been defending themselves since April, when the genocide was triggered by the shooting-down over Kigali of President Habyarimana of Rwanda, a Hutu, and President Ntaryamira of Burundi. According to reports this week in *Le Figaro*, the SAM-16 missiles used came from French stocks.

"The French troops arrived in Biseseo and were flagged down by a survivor, a teacher. He told them what was happening and bravely argued with people such as Alfred Musema (now facing a UN war crimes tribunal in Arusha), Ms Omaar said yesterday. "The French did



French troops guard Tutsi survivors emerging from hiding in the Rwandan bush after a massacre of 1,000 by Hutus in June 1994

not believe him until he called others out of the woods who emerged with terrible wounds, more dead than alive. The teacher was told that the French troops would return in three days, effectively telling the killers how much time they had to continue killing," she added.

When the French returned

to Biseseo four days later, according to Ms Omaar's report, the Hutus had killed nearly 1,000 of the survivors. But even on June 30, the French had no intention of helping the Tutsis. Captain Gillier told *The Times* that he was going on a mission to "secure the area against the RPF". His men went to

Biseseo, drove past the Tutsis, and met up with leading members of the *Interahamwe*. On a hill overlooking Biseseo, where Tutsis lay dead and bleeding, Captain Gillier called in a helicopter to bring biscuits to Hutus. It was not until he came under pressure from other journalists that he agreed to send his

men to rescue the Tutsis of Biseseo. "Musema came and survivors told the French that this man was a killer. The French asked people to testify and then they let him go," Jean Magazi told Africa Rights.

This pattern was repeated throughout Rwanda. In Cyangugu, in the south,

French troops released several hundred notorious killers before they withdrew at the end of Operation Turquoise. Kigali: Militiamen armed with knives have killed nine Hutus in three villages in central Rwanda, it was reported yesterday. An official blamed Hutu militiamen hiding in forest bases. (Reuters)

6,000

10 and he agreed to... understanding she would... it." Miss Jackson said she... need not to have the... cheque. "She asked... another cheque... how how sorry... only the £6,000 cheque... cured because Mr... s life savings were... en he found the... missing. Mr... ted Holmes... Miss Jackson said... she had never... ore, which was pe...



Harrison: proposes after second man

nal cruel stroke to his... money has not been... Mr Harrison... Philip Miles, for... ne, said that Holme... personally disor... health problems... ving on £10,500 a... bility benefits... herself as the vic... aid. "She believed... eing tricked into... After the case Mr... said: "I am readi... looking for happi... and I will carry on... get my money bac...

DNA test girls aft... baby kill

POLICE... DNA... from... found... parents... asking... "The... found... ask... park... fork... within... The... areas... police... were... testing... and... process... with... to... purp... the... police... to... them... near... was...

Opposition chief says Hong Kong election is fraud

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

VOTING began yesterday in the complex preliminary stage of the first post-colonial election in Hong Kong in a process praised by pro-Beijing leaders here but condemned by a senior opposition politician as "a fraud".

The polls' convoluted nature seemed to cause apathy and bafflement among voters. A small group of special voters cast ballots for an 800-seat electoral college which will, in turn, elect ten deputies to a new 60-member legislature in elections on May 24 when Hong Kong goes to the polls.

There was a poor turnout among 139,000 voters, drawn from professional, labour and religious groups. Only 4.4 per cent of those eligible had voted by midday. Pro-democracy leaders were sidelined from Hong Kong politics after last July's handover, when China scrapped the elected Legislative Council and replaced it

with an appointed body. A Democratic Party spokesman said the new formula was "totally rigged so that all the losers would win seats". Martin Lee, the party leader, said the laws were established to guarantee that those who obtained 65 per cent of the votes would have just 25 per cent of the seats. "This is a fraud on our community."

Tung Chee-hwa, the shipping magnate appointed by China as Chief Executive of Hong Kong, said: "This election is taking place under fair, just and open circumstances, representing the voices of different sectors."

Pro-democracy advocates criticised the cumbersome process, saying it was designed to avoid a democratic election. About ten members of the pro-democracy Frontier Party protested in central Hong Kong yesterday against what it called a small-circle election by a political clique.

Only 20 other seats will be elected directly by popular vote. A further 30 will be elected by blocks of professional and special-interest groups.

Andy Ho, a columnist, said of the election: "It's so complicated it borders on absurdity."

Children reprieved: Chinese children smuggled into Hong Kong to join their parents before the handover were given residency rights by an appeals court yesterday. But it upheld a ruling that those arriving after the handover be deported. (AP)



Tung: defended poll as fair, just and open

South Asia tops illiteracy league

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SOUTH ASIA, the world's poorest and most malnourished region, has achieved another record: the greatest illiteracy. Half the region's 800 million adults are illiterate, and barely one in three women can read or write. Even sub-Saharan Africa fares better.

A study of educational levels says the region needs to train 400,000 extra teachers a year for the next five years to raise standards. Teacher absenteeism is chronic — up to 42 per cent in the Indian state of Assam. One fifth of teachers have had no training and salaries are appalling — about £20 a month in India.

The findings are published today by the Islamabad-based Human Development Centre in a United Nations-sponsored report, *Human Development in South Asia*. Mahbub ul-Haq, the author, a Pakistani former Cabinet minister, says schools have "completely failed in teaching children the core skills needed for a productive life". The report said 80 per cent of children who completed

primary education in Pakistan were unable to write a simple letter. Nine out of ten girls who recently took the school leaving certificate examination in Nepal failed. In Bangladesh, 40 per cent of children about to enter secondary school were illiterate.

South Asia leads the world in neglecting the education of its females. "Education of girls and women in the majority of South Asian countries has been, till recently, a victim of political rhetoric, bureaucratic apathy and discriminatory cultural practices," the report says.

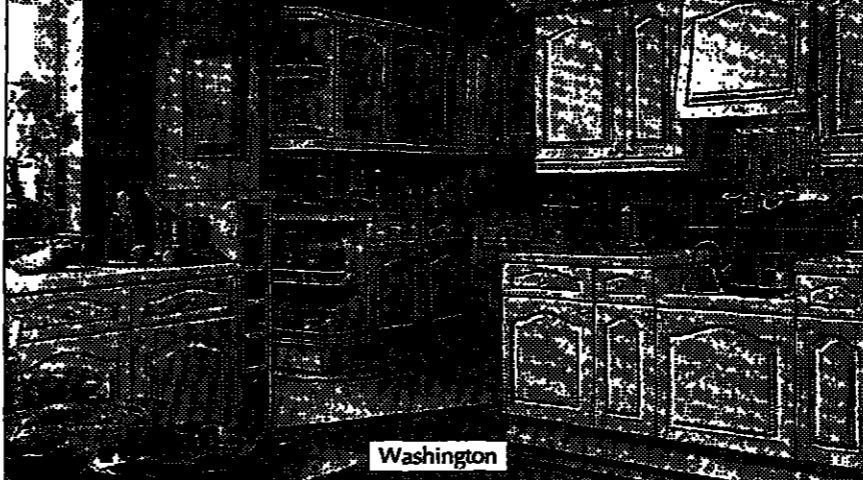
Girls spend just a third as much time in schools as boys. Female literacy is 36 per cent, compared with 48 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.

The report pays tribute to Sri Lanka and the Maldives for achieving greater gender parity in primary education, but describes the overall situation in South Asia as an educational holocaust. "South Asia's multilingual, multi-age, multigrade classrooms are nothing short of a multiple disaster zone."

ALL KITCHENS REDUCED AT B&Q Plus Interest Free Credit

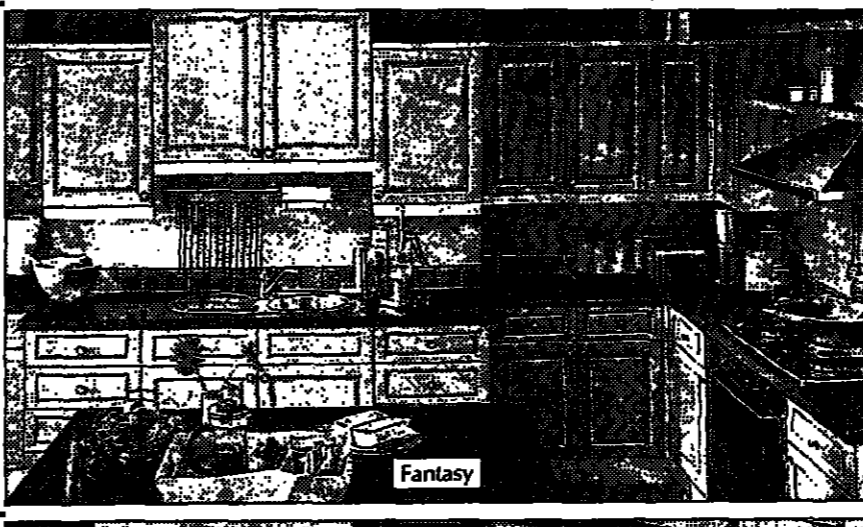
25% OFF
these kitchen units

Brookland, Chalton, Claremont Green or Ivory, Coniston, Freestyle, Glendale, Washington and Wentworth.



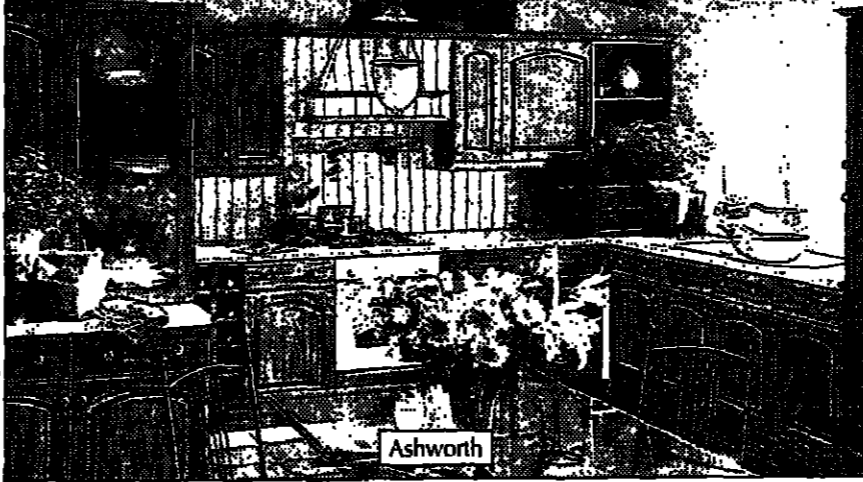
20% OFF
these kitchen units

Aston, Blueberry, Bordeaux, Cottage, Deauville, Derwent, Edmonston, Fantasy Blue or White, Grasmere, Hudson, Montreaux Grey or Red, Mulberry, Rochelle, Salsa Beech, Green or Terracotta, Sherbrooke Beech, Blue or Green and Weston.



10% OFF
these kitchen units

Alaska, Ashworth, Aspen, Badminton, Chambray, Cheriton, Churchill, Draycott, Goodwood, Hanover, Harewood, Malvern, Pickering, Rialto, Rishton, Sandhurst, Savannah, Stoneleigh, Turnberry and Vermont.



NEW
Stronger metal sided drawers

NEW
Snap-on hinges and fixing system for faster and easier assembly

NEW
10 superb new kitchens added to our range

NEW
'Mix and Match' doors to create your unique kitchen design

NEW
23 new worktop designs

PLUS
An extensive range of appliances by top manufacturers — Creda, Homark, Newworld, Neff and Whirlpool — ask in store about great offers on appliances.

0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Interest Free Credit is available on all kitchens in the range. This offer includes everything you need for your kitchen from units and accessories such as pelmets and cornices to sinks, taps, appliances, worktops, tiles, lights and installation costs.

Phone Freecall 0800 444 840 now for your new B&Q kitchen brochure.

JOHN RICHARDSON
Kitchen Sales Manager, South Yorkshire

You can do it when you B&Q it!

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Ask in store for details. Does not apply in B&Q Worktops or B&Q Depot.

EASTER WEEKEND OPENING HOURS
LATE OPENING - Great offers 11PM THURSDAY 9TH APRIL. In 1000 B&Q Most stores 10pm-9pm. Sat 11th April Most stores 10pm-9pm. Sun 12th April: England, Wales & Northern Ireland CLOSED. Scotland 9am to 6pm; Isle of Man 9am to 5.30pm. Mon 13th April: Most stores 10pm-9pm. Some 11pm-9pm. Tuesday 14th April: Home from Home. Several Opening Hours: Monday-Tuesday. Most stores 10pm-9pm. Sunday 15th April: Home from Home. Northern Ireland 10pm-9pm. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm. BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0191 466 4166

Internet - <http://www.bq.co.uk>

B&Q

20 YEARS GUARANTEE

1990 595 52

OVERSEAS

Hamas vows to avenge death of bombmaker

JEWISH population centres were placed on maximum alert yesterday against suicide attacks as thousands of enraged Palestinians chanting "revenge, revenge" buried the Hamas bombmaker they claim was assassinated by Israeli agents.

Israel on alert after funeral of militant, Christopher Walker writes

"We want to hear explosions in Tel Aviv. Blow them up, blow them up," exhorted Arab women, slapping themselves in grief as the body of Muhyideen al-Sharif, 33, his scorched face and upper body exposed, was carried through the streets of the Palestinian self-rule city of Ramallah for an Islamic martyr's burial.

"Dear, dear Qassam, hit Tel Aviv," chanted the crowd as Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority police kept their distance. The mourners were referring to Izz el-Deen al-Qassam, the military wing of Hamas preparing revenge attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and abroad.

Hamas rejected Israeli denials of any involvement in Sharif's killing on Sunday and said that retaliation would "be quicker than anyone can imagine". The group added: "The Zionists must watch the earthquake reaction."

Senior Israeli security officials anticipated a series of attacks. "We know a Hamas reaction will come. The question is, when and where," one Israeli source said.

Yesterday's funeral swiftly

turned into one of the biggest shows of force for Hamas seen in many months. Supporters of the militant group in the West Bank and Gaza Strip said one immediate response to the killing of the bombmaker — who had been in hiding since 1995 — had been a stream of new volunteers for suicide bombings.

They, like Sharif, are promised a place in paradise with 72 virgin brides and members of their families. Marchers, who clashed with Israeli forces guarding a nearby Jewish settlement, carried green Islamic flags. They jostled for a chance to touch the body of the man who was blamed by the Israelis for masterminding suicide attacks which claimed 78 Jewish lives.

By nightfall there were reports of fierce clashes between Palestinians and Israelis in at least six different parts of the West Bank. An Arab stabbed a Jew in annexed East Jerusalem. At least 20 Palestinians

were wounded. Many more mass protests are planned after prayers today.

The Hamas leaflet vowed that revenge would be even bloodier than in 1996 when Sharif's predecessor, Yahya Ayyash, known as "The Engineer", was killed in the Gaza Strip by a booby-trapped mobile telephone.

"They [the Israelis] paid with 60 coffins for Ayyash," the leaflet said, "and we are telling them now to prepare for more."

Palestinian lawmakers loyal to Mr Arafat added fuel to the fire by openly accusing Israel of killing Sharif, whose body was found near a car which blew up in Ramallah. However, the exact circumstances of the death remained in dispute. Palestinian police claimed that he was killed by three bullets about three hours before the explosion, while Israeli security sources insisted that he had died in "a work accident" when a Hamas bomb exploded prematurely.

With the Easter and Passover holidays only days away, thousands of extra soldiers and policemen tightened controls at West Bank roadblocks and set up new ones on main highways. They were also patrolling markets, bus stations and shopping malls for potential bombers. Patrols were posted on rooftops and Arab pedestrians subjected to rigorous identity checks.



Palestinians carry the body of the Hamas bombmaker Muhyideen al-Sharif through Ramallah yesterday. Hamas claimed he had been assassinated

WORLD SUMMARY

Dutch fear fallout from plane crash

Amsterdam: The Dutch Government ordered an inquiry yesterday into possible radioactive contamination and adverse health effects from the 1992 crash of an El-Al cargo jet in an Amsterdam suburb. Els Borst-Eilers, the Health Minister, told parliament she was ordering an immediate study, to be led by a medical team from Amsterdam University Hospital.

The inquiry comes after claims of leaked radioactivity from the aircraft's wreckage, and concerns for the health of residents in the suburb of Bijlmermeer. The airline denies the aircraft was carrying any dangerous substances and says depleted uranium is widely used as wing ballast. The crashed jet is thought to have contained about 860lb of uranium, some of which has not been recovered. About 50 people were killed when the Boeing 747 hit a block of flats in October 1992. (Reuters)

32 pilgrims die in bus blaze

Diyarbakir, Turkey: At least 32 Iranian Muslims making a pilgrimage to the holy Saudi city of Mecca were killed when their bus was hit from behind by a fuel tanker at Birecik in southern Turkey, near the Syrian border. The bus caught fire when the tanker exploded as the two vehicles came out of a tunnel, and the passengers were burnt to death, said Kazim Guler, a spokesman for the Turkish Interior Ministry. The Turkish driver of the tanker was also killed and 13 other people were injured, most of them seriously. An official at a hospital in Birecik said: "Completely burnt bodies are continuing to arrive here. It is a dreadful sight." (AFP)

Romanian leader named

Bucharest: Radu Vasile, right, was named as Prime Minister of Romania by President Constantinescu after talks with parties in the coalition Government (Sean Hillen writes). Victor Ciortobea resigned from the post earlier this week following sustained criticism by the coalition parties. The International Monetary Fund has suspended tranches of a \$410 million (£250 million) loan to Romania during the political stalemate which began in early January.



UN ultimatum to Taleban

Islamabad: The United Nations has issued the strongest warning yet that it will stop all but its lifesaving programme in Afghanistan if the Taleban Islamic authorities do not guarantee protection to its staff and allow them to work without restriction (Zahid Hussain writes). Carol Bellamy, Unicef's executive director, said in Kabul that a UN team was to travel to the Afghan capital shortly to negotiate with Taleban officials. "The UN is ready to pull out if the talks break down," she said.

Call for Kosovo referendum

Belgrade: President Milosevic of Yugoslavia has urged the Serbian Government to hold a national referendum on whether to accept international mediation over the Kosovo crisis (Tom Walker writes). Western diplomats were furious at what one described as an obvious delaying tactic. It had been hoped that talks between Serbs and ethnic Albanians could begin soon, but Mr Milosevic's move now virtually rules out early progress.

Amnesia floors heavyweight

New York: Floyd Patterson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has resigned as chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission after it was revealed that he had all but lost his memory as a result of injuries suffered during his career (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The boxer could not remember that he beat Archie Moore to win the title in 1956.

Eye experts rattled by computer games for toddlers

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN company will shortly introduce a software package which it says will allow children aged as young as nine months to play computer games.

The product is known as *lapware* — it requires an infant to sit on a parent's lap while playing the games — and will go on sale this summer across America.

Produced by a company called Knowledge Adventure, *JumpStart*

Baby features an animated teddy bear which plays hide-and-seek with a child.

Larry Gross, the president of the toy's makers, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the game would give children "a great sense of satisfaction to do something and see a reaction".

Lapware is the latest craze to hit the rapidly expanding software industry for children. Computer programmes for children aged between 18 months and three years are one of the fastest growing sectors of the

software market. Sales trebled last year, totalling \$27 million (£16.1 million) in America alone.

There is a growing belief among some parents that computers can teach children to read at an earlier age than the more conventional "books and blocks" methods. Children are believed also to draw more imaginatively on a computer screen, and to learn more quickly how to count.

So ingrained has the computer become, in fact, that many children now learn a ditty called *Load From*

Hard Drive at the ages of three or four.

Sung to the tune of *Frère Jacques*, the age-old French juvenile favourite, the lyrics are: "Load from hard drive/Load from hard drive/It's inside, it's inside/Storing information/For our education/Clap, we're on."

Inevitably, this proliferation of computer software for the young has sparked some alarm. Old-fashioned childhood experts contend that the time that a toddler spends on a computer would be better spent

fertilising the imagination with stories or at play with physical objects. Other say that young children will develop an early form of screen addiction, which will lead them inexorably to an over-reliance on television.

Eye specialists are also worried, and say that exposing an infant's eyes to a computer screen could lead to problems with vision later in life.

The makers of *JumpStart Baby*, however, say that they are only responding to demand from parents and educationalists.

Mothers say babies stolen for adoption racket

FROM REUTERS IN SYDNEY

AN inquiry into claims that thousands of single women were drugged and had their new-born babies stolen for adoption rackets in the 1960s and 1970s was announced by the New South Wales state government yesterday. Faye

Lo Po, the state community services minister who announced the inquiry, said the stories told by the women were harrowing and touching.

"We need to let them tell the world of this practice," she said. "But more importantly, I want their children to hear it because, until they understand it, they will feel abandoned."

Ms Lo Po said it was unclear how many women had their babies taken away at birth by hospital staff.

Chris Cobb, head of Origins, a group set up by women who claim their children were forcibly removed, said the number of illegal adoptions could be as high as 80,000. "We were not treated like

other mothers. We were treated as less than human," Mrs Cobb said she was drugged and her daughter stolen.

Other Origins women have said they were drugged, sometimes for days, and told by hospital staff that their babies had died at birth, or were made to sign adoption documents in a drugged state.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

With superb techniques and inventive exponents, photography-after 160 years-has finally made it as an art form. Culture, this Sunday

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Adopt a Cub for Easter

and help WSPA save bears from cruelty. Guler was found wandering the streets of Istanbul. Hunters probably shot her mother so Guler could be taught to 'dance' for tourists. With her brother Erol, she's now safe at WSPA's bear sanctuary. You can help keep these cubs safe by adopting them as an Easter gift.

For £15 we'll send you an adoption certificate, two photos of the cubs and their story. For £25 you'll get all these, plus a video of the cubs playing. Please help WSPA protect bears worldwide.

Guaranteed delivery by Easter for orders received by 6th April.

I want to adopt Erol and Guler

Please return this form to the address below.

Your name _____

Your address _____

Postcode _____

Date of birth (if under 18) _____

If you are adopting a cub as a gift for a friend or relation and want their name on the certificate, please write their name here: _____

I want to adopt Erol and Guler for

£15 (for an adoption certificate, 2 photos and the cubs' story)

£25 (for all the above plus a video of the cubs)

(Please make your cheque payable to WSPA or fill in your credit card details below.)

Visa / MasterCard / Switch / Eurocard / GAF CharityCard / Amex (Please circle the card you are using.)

Card No. _____

(If paying by Switch, please use the number printed across the middle of your card)

Expiry date _____ Switch issue no. Today's date _____

Signature _____

Tick here for information on corporate sponsorship

Please send this completed form and your donation to: WSPA, Dept. AL578, 2 Langley Lane, London SW8 1TJ. THANK YOU.

OR CALL 0171 793 0540

WSPA World Centre for the Protection of Bears

Renewing in April or May?

You could save up to

£50.

Save on home insurance in minutes

just give us a call and you could save up to £50 a year with Alliance & Leicester's buildings and contents insurance.

We'll give you an instant quote, instant discounts, even instant cover.

More cover for less money

- New for old cover
- 24-hour free legal and emergency helpline.
- Extra cover for stolen keys, freezer failure even wedding presents.
- Interest-free direct debit.

Instant discounts

Locks discount	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alarm discount	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Optional access discount	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For an instant quote, call FREE on

0500 50 40 80

LINES OPEN 8AM - 8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM - NOON SATURDAY (including Good Friday & Easter Monday)

Please quote reference number: 119920

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

Reassessing your way of thinking about insurance

سكنا من الأنا

هكذا من الاجل



Would you tuck your child up with one of these?

No doubt you, too, had been hoping that if we all just ignored it, this world doll crisis would go away, but clearly that's not going to happen. Now even dozy old Vienna (civic motto: "The city that never sleeps, unless it has wolfed down a big slab of chocolate cake first") has gone doll mad crazy.

Over the next few days Vienna is staging a city-wide exhibition dedicated to its much-adored Empress Elisabeth, "Sisi", as she was known, died a century ago, after being stabbed by a crazed Italian anarchist. But her life bore a remarkable resemblance to that of Diana, Princess of Wales: she suffered from anorexia and low self-esteem, hated the stiffness of the Habsburg Court, flouted protocol and, after her marriage to Franz Josef had become a sham, devoted herself to charity work. One of the events is even called *Sisi and Diana - Two Royal Fates*.

Two Idols of Their Time. So it is fitting that Vienna has honoured Sisi's memory by approving not only Sisi chocolate balls and Sisi ice-cream, but also, yes, your own Sisi Barbie, enabling you to hold your very own *Sisi and Diana* exhibition as soon as the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund decides to go ahead with its much-awaited Sindy-type doll.

Meanwhile, visitors to America's forthcoming National Memorabilia Convention can see a talking Monica Lewinsky doll that says "I'm a good intern" and "Whatever you want, Mr President". And joining the Spice Girl and supermodel dolls soon is size-16 Ruby, created by the Body Shop to mock the myth of the perfect body. The chain's founder, Anita Roddick, says it "frees women from the tyranny of stereotypes".

Where is it going to stop? The answer is: not here. It has become

clear that the people who have been whingeing about this doll onslaught were only jealous. Which of us doesn't crave a doll modelled on ourselves, a doll that conveys both our looks and our personality? That is why the Government - having seen the benefits of backbenchers who look like the real thing but can't actually speak - has decided that we should all be allowed one. The factory lines are already rolling. These are just a few of the first models heading for the shops.

The Lord Irvine of Lairg doll: comes with an impressive, Sphinx-like face, but when sufficiently embarrassed by derisive comments, the doll's face reddens slowly, as though blushing. Although nobody has yet managed to achieve this effect, the manufacturers insist that it is possible, and are refusing to issue refunds to disappointed purchasers. (Note: this doll runs on similar circuitry

to the Robin Cook doll, which also comes with a thick, seemingly impenetrable coating.)

The Hillary Clinton doll: the negatively charged magnets located in the back of her eye sockets mean Hillary averts her eyes a full 180 degrees from all those scandalous goings-on around her that everyone else in the world finds positively magnetic.

The Jocelyn Wildenstein doll: initially an attractive doll, made of a hardy, putty-like substance. It comes with a set of miniature plastic scalpels, which allow the owner to reshape the doll's face so that the eyes, nose, mouth and ears are arranged in such improbable configurations that the doll can eventually double as the Picasso Cubist-Phase doll.

The Tim Rice doll: an interactive, talking doll with a microchip in its stomach that responds to any word the doll hears by screeching back the most bizarre

rhyme it can think of. Examples: "chimneypiece" with "predecease"; "prune" with "Kowloon". (Warning: placing this doll in close proximity to the Andrew Lloyd Webber doll can produce aurally alarming results.)

The Tony Blair doll: comes in an unappealing shade of red and, as a result, tends to languish, unloved, in your toybox. However, the doll slowly turns pink and then light blue as it strives to be noticed, maturing to a deep cobalt when exposed to the full glare of its owner's adulation.

The Terence Conran doll: while you are asleep, this doll rids your daughter's bedroom of clutter, reducing it to a clean, white shell; it also edits her wardrobe to a few classic items in ever-fashionable navy; and then installs enough tables to serve 30 covers of stylish Italian/Thai-style food, accompanied by shiny zinc ashtrays.

The Elton John doll: can be

programmed to adjust the lyrics of *Candle in the Wind* to suit any occasion. (Examples: "Goodbye fried sardines" to signal a new diet; "Goodbye crepe de Chine" when changing couturiers; "Goodbye nicotine", when giving up ciggies; and plenty more.)

The Harriet Harman doll: this doll has large, unblinking eyes and comes with a set of knives, which all Harriet's friends in the toybox can insert into the pre-cut holes in her back.

The William Hague doll: his versatile wardrobe allows William to blend into any social situation. Especially popular is his Notting Hill Carnival costume, which includes a coconut with two straws rising from the milk inside: watch in admiration as unstuffy William advertises his street cred by nonchalantly inserting one straw up each nostril and inhaling, just like Uma Thurman did in *Pulp Fiction*.

'Just good friends?' Then never stay the night

Here is the dilemma. You are a newly married man (as I am), and receive a letter from an old female friend, as I did last week, inviting you to dinner to celebrate her new job.

She neither knows your wife, nor wishes to meet her. That, in itself, should alert you. Still, let us imagine you accept the invitation (from Kate, as we shall call her) - after all, you tell yourself, there is nothing morally wrong about staying close to female friends. A couple of months ago, when single, you would have thought nothing of such an arrangement. Yet something doesn't seem quite right.

What might happen? You arrive at Kate's house; the atmosphere is relaxed and conversation has an easy familiarity. There is much to reminisce about. You share a bottle of wine and then another, at which point it becomes obvious that driving has become an impossibility. So what to do? Innocently, Kate offers you a bed in her spare room. Innocently, you accept (for it is past midnight and the idea of a minicab drive

Some invitations are best avoided altogether, warns newlywed Jason Cowley

across London does not appeal). Yet you hesitate to tell your wife where you are - she surely won't understand, and anyway it's past midnight...

The next morning you and Kate share a light breakfast and, walking together towards the Tube station, you bump into a friend of your wife's. She greets you warily; her voice is full of unspoken suspicion. You feel suddenly guilty, as if you have done something wrong, as if you have committed a small act of betrayal. Have you?

What set me thinking about this hypothetical dilemma was not only the letter I received last week, but also the case of Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce, the woman at

the centre of the current Ministry of Defence adultery case. Accused of being serially unfaithful, the embattled Wren told a court martial this week that she saw "no reason to be unfriendly towards a man just because he's married". As someone who married three weeks ago and who has numerous female friends, I found her words carrying a resonating ring. "Good for her," I thought.

But hold on, Commander Pearce, it emerges, maintained numerous close friendships with married men while having an affair with her former boss, Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople. At least two of these men stayed the night at her house, although she insists that, in the jargon, nothing happened, and that these friendships were entirely "platonic". Well, I say. For never has the concept of a great philosopher, nor his ideas of love been so misunderstood.

Ms Pearce is accused of wrecking several marriages, of being a voracious *femme fatale*, of leading respectable naval officers astray. All this carries a whiff of misogyny, and anyway, I think she has a point. For why should mar-



Avenues of potential temptation ought surely to be closed off to avoid becoming embroiled in a farrago of innuendo and gossip

riage be perceived as a kind of terminus, an act of closure, the beginning of the end of old friendships with the opposite sex? Or is allowing a married man (or woman) to stay the night in your house, and on more than one occasion, even if "nothing happens", the moral equivalent of wearing a short skirt: a provocative gesture that can so easily be misconstrued?

Now let us consider the same dilemma from another perspective: that of a new wife. Her husband tells her that he is going out for the night with an "old friend" and will be back late. She is confused as to why he does not reveal who he is seeing, but lets it pass. Trust is everything.

So she spends the evening going through household bills, watching television and talking to her parents on the phone. Weary, she goes to bed early, but wakes in the middle of the night. She is startled to find that her husband has not returned. Has something happened to him?

She calls him at work the next day; he is coy and evasive. Later, sharing a plate of pasta, she casually asks him again about last night. He blushes, peers into his glass of Bordeaux, and begins a long, wandering explanation.

He is uncharacteristically distant, troubled (he is guiltily convinced that his wife has spoken to the friend he bumped into that morning). Eventually, he confesses to staying the night at "Kate's, an old friend" - a name that sounds troublingly familiar.

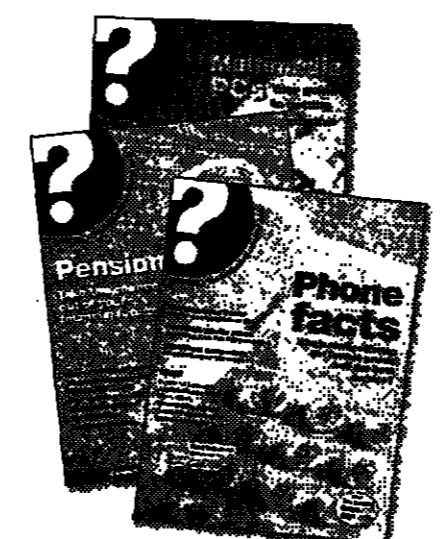
He is suddenly lost in a forest of questions. Who is Kate? Why wasn't she invited? Why did he stay the night? Did anything happen? From such innocent beginnings do disasters occur.

This, of course, won't do. If a marriage is to have any chance of working, then avenues of potential temptation ought surely to be closed off. Better to close them off than become embroiled, like the hapless house-guests of Commander Pearce, in a farrago of innuendo and gossip.

Either that (and I have no wish to sound like a sanctimonious newlywed), or try embracing complete honesty about all platonic friendships. Better still, avoid them altogether: they can leave heart-break in their wake.

As for me, I think I already know how I'll be replying to that invitation to dinner.

FREE 35 Which? reports. Or 45 if you reply within 7 days.



1. Tax Saving Guide
2. Out of hours care
3. The cost of being a sports fan
4. Meat labelling
5. Buying a bed
6. Palm top computers
7. Paint
8. Irons
9. Container gardening
10. Tires
11. New-style banks
12. Eye surgery
13. Water supplies
14. Customer service
15. Car security
16. Pagers and mobile phones
17. Vacuum cleaners
18. Best buy city cars
19. Credit cards - perks and helpines
20. State pensions
21. Internet service providers
22. Which wine?
23. Hiring a car abroad
24. Car finance deals
25. Films and processors
26. New products round-up - digital video discs
27. Buying a cooler
28. Holiday money
29. Health insurance strategy
30. Home phones
31. UK short breaks for families
32. Tapes
33. Printers
34. Private medical insurance
35. Bathroom scales
36. Car crash tests
37. Car insurance deals
38. Cool your heating bill
39. Vacuum pens
40. Fridge-freezers
41. Large car safety
42. Home improvements
43. Financial aids
44. Widescreen TVs
45. Tax advisers

We plan to send you all the reports listed opposite if you reply within 7 days

Try Which? magazine - FREE for 3 months, or even 4

Every month Which? magazine brings you a wide range of independent, colourful reports on a variety of goods and services. You'll save time, trouble and money with Which? as your guide - so why not take up this free trial offer today!

SUMMARY & TERMS OF THE OFFER

Free trial subscription to Which? magazine, comprising the May, June and July issues as they are published, plus bonus reports. Free April issue, if you reply within 7 days - making 45 free reports. Just fill in the delayed direct debiting instruction below and post to Which?, FREEPOST.

NO STAMP NEEDED • SEND NO MONEY

This Which? magazine, Hertford X, SG14 1YB. If you do not wish to continue beyond your free trial, simply write to us at the above FREEPOST address, and to your bank/building society to cancel your instruction, before 1st August 1998. You can keep everything you have already received and won't owe us a penny. No action is necessary if you wish to continue. We will send you Which? each month for £14.75 a quarter, until you cancel, or until we advise you of a change in price. We would give you at least 6 weeks' notice of any price change, so you would have plenty of time to decide whether to continue - you are of course free to cancel at any time. Get your free April issue - post this coupon today!

Direct Debiting Instruction

Please pay Which? Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Which? and, if no details will be passed electronically to my bank or building society.

Date of first payment on or within calendar month from 1st August 1998

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bank/Building Society: _____ Your name and address in BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE: _____

Bank/Building Society Account number: _____ Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms: _____

Bank/Building Society Sort code: _____ Address: _____

Name and address of your Bank/Building Society in BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE: _____

To: _____

Postcode: _____

Postage: _____

WHICH?
THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE

EASTER IN LONDON

FROM ONLY **£28** PER PERSON PER NIGHT

Spring is in the air. London's famous parks are blooming. Pavement bars and cafes are buzzing, while the city's monuments are coming to life in the spring sun's warm glow.

What better time to visit the capital? And where better to stay than a Forte hotel? We've something for everyone - from 5 star luxury to exceptional family value in the very heart of London's West End.

Hotels	Location	Price	Price		
Regent Palace Hotel*	West End	£75	DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST PER PERSON PER NIGHT		
Portico Heathrow	Heathrow	£25	Portico Gatwick	Gatwick	£34
Fortis Crest Heathrow	Heathrow	£40	Le Meridien Gatwick	Gatwick	£54
The Excelsior Heathrow	Heathrow	£42	1 to 4 meals bed/bkts		
Portico Heathrow	Heathrow	£46	These prices are based on a two night minimum stay.		
Portico Kensington	Kensington	£47			
Portico Bloomsbury	West End	£58	Offer available between		
Strand Palace Hotel	West End	£58	3-49 April 1998		
Hotel Russell	West End	£60	1-4 and 22-31 May 1998		
The Cumberland Hotel	West End	£60			
Saint Georges Hotel	West End	£62			
The Cavendish	West End	£68			
Grosvenor House	West End	£76			
Le Meridien Waldorf	West End	£92			
Le Meridien Piccadilly	West End	£92			

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT, OR CALL

0345 40 40 40

QUOTING REFERENCE LE2

MERIDIEN Posthouse LONDON SIGNATURE HOTELS

Objects of desire

■ These cream knitted mice booties are a delight. With their tiny pink-lined ears and black woolly whiskers, they will reduce anyone to cooing. Even if you don't have a baby, you'll find yourself buying them. Little Badgers, £12 plus p&p (Mail order: 0171-498 4707)



■ What better way to raise a stylish child than an early initiation into designer luxury goods? Gucci Baby is inscribed on each of these sterling silver objects. The rattle costs £90, the cup £145, the spoon £145, and the height of decadence has to be a fur-lined baby blanket at £1,990. Gucci, 18 Sloane Street SW1 (0171-235 6707)

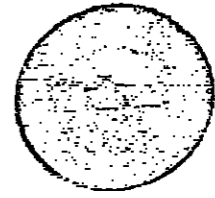


Your chic isn't in the post

Dressing by the book asymmetrical top £14.99, skirt £19.99, both by Elle, from La Redoute catalogue

SIX OF THE BEST

Illustrated, floral or simply brightly coloured. Here are our six of the best patterned plates to spice up mealtimes.



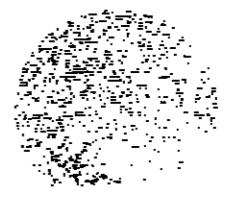
PINK AND WHITE CHINESE HOUSE PLATE, £8.75
Light and summery, this is the first own-label dinner service from the trendy Notting Hill style emporium, Graham & Green. It is not available until June. Graham & Green, 4 Elgin Crescent W11 (0171-727 4594) 9/10



HERMES PAINTED DOG PLATE, £65
This hexagonal plate is so intricately painted that every brush stroke is visible. More a plate to admire than to use. Hermès, 179 Sloane Street SW1 (0171-823 1014) 8/10



ILLUSTRATED PATTERNED PLATE, £34
This Christian Lacroix plate reflects its designer. The fashion maestro has produced a typically vibrant collection with violent swirls of colour. Christofle, 10 Hanover Street, W1 (0171-491 4004) 8/10



PURPLE FLOWER PLATE, £50
This shape - circular apart from a section sliced off the side - is unusual, and the expanse of white is broken with a bright purple iris. Understated yet incredibly beautiful. Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, W1 (0171-499 2823) 10/10



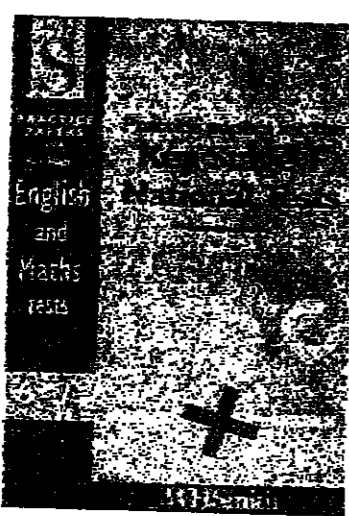
SIX PEAR PLATES, £69.95
This set of six dessert plates is exquisite and gently witty. The set starts with an illustration of a pear, which is gradually eaten away. The lettering disintegrates too. Delightful. Divertimenti, 139-141 Fulham Road, SW3. (Mail order: 0181-246 4300) 10/10



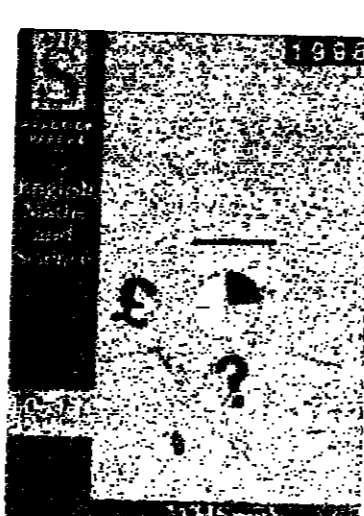
LALIQNE LUPIN PLATE, FROM £47
This exquisite white plate, decorated with a border of blue and gold lupins, is the height of grandeur. Laliqne, 162 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8228) 9/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

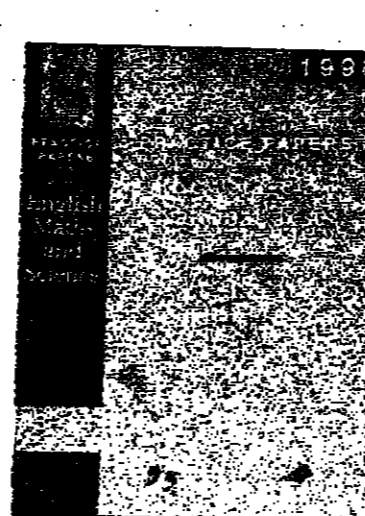
To sail through the National Tests, breeze into WHSmith.



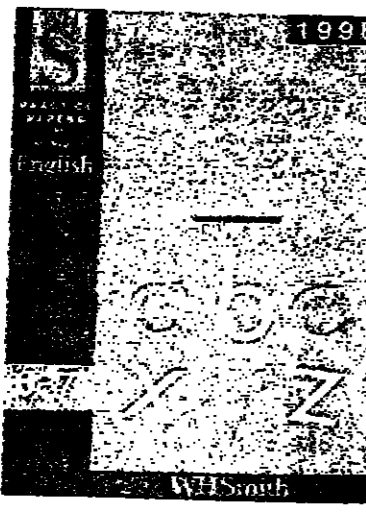
£4-50



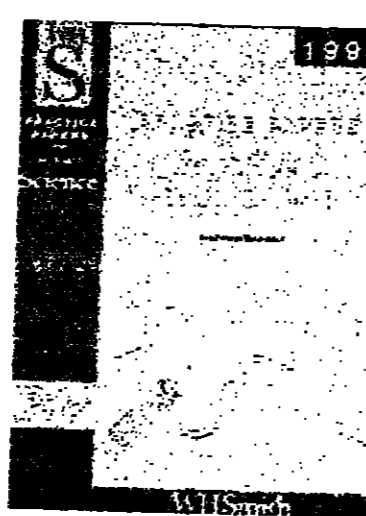
£4-50



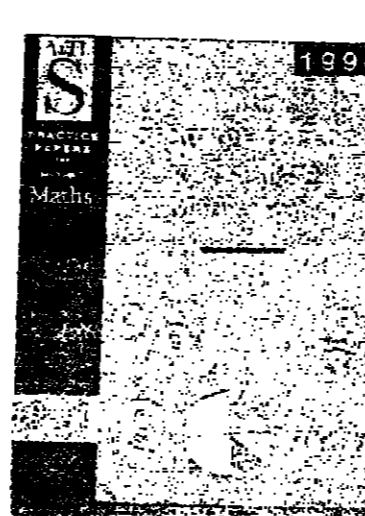
£5-99



£3-50



£3-50



£4-50

WHSmith has an exclusive new range of easy to use educational books to help you prepare your child for the National Tests in May. For each age range there is a book for all the subjects tested.

www.whsmith.co.uk

Whatever you're into, get into WHSmith

AVAILABLE AT ALL WHSMITH HIGH STREET STORES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.

Once I start to think again, the Boden catalogue excels - if you can stand its maddening air of self-satisfaction and ineffable prose style. This, however, is a very big "if". Though not without its moments of unconscious comedy: "To be honest, it's the sort of outfit that makes me wish I were a woman"; most of the catalogue copy makes one want to punch its author on the nose. The clothes, however, are lovely - lots of sensible corduroy and drill for the chaps, in colours that won't frighten the horses. And for women, good shapes and colours, with an eye to fashion - Capri pants, twinsets, crisp shirts in lilac, pistachio, soft grey - as well as the old staples: jeans, Guernseys, suede jackets.

But what if one doesn't spend one's life at point-to-points? Any chance of becoming a fashion victim by mail? Not much, I am afraid.

The high street has its off-seasons, just like individual designers, which may account for the dreariness of the Next directory and La Redoute catalogues, about both of which I had heard very good things. Of course, if you look hard, there are pretty things - Next's layered top, £29.99, pretty lilac silk satin shift, £49.99, and handsome Napa leather frock coat, £250, are all quite desirable, but they lurk amid a slew of nondescript shapes and colours. Smaller, and rather better, is the Principles catalogue, which has a particularly desirable silver metallic cardigan with pearl buttons, £40.

CUTTING EDGE JANE SHILLING

dredweight of glossy paper that thudded on to my doormat when I began my research fell into four broad categories: there were the children's catalogues with bolt-on sections for Mummy (and sometimes Daddy); the Aggressively Casual High Street fashion, and what you might call the Aspirational. Of these, the children's are the nicest surprise. My son is six, and takes no interest in clothes at all, as long as they are not "girlic". I would like to dress him in simple shapes, natural fibres, cheerful colours. On the high street, I find murky colours, hideous logos, abominable urban terrorist faigues. Gap and, sometimes, Mothercare, are honourable exceptions, but the French Vertbaudet (cheap and cheerful) and Cyrilus (more expensive, but lovely, if you don't find the French BCBG style too priggish), and the excellent Mini Boden (well made clothes, which are innocent and carefree without being cute or twee) are better than either.

If only the catalogues for grown-ups were anything like as good. Of what is available, the best are probably the up-scaled children's clothes - sportswear, leisurewear, casual wear, whichever sinister

At the top end of the market, the Kingshill catalogue assembles a gallery of designer names - Paul Costelloe, Caroline Charles, Paddy Campbell - but to surprisingly muted effect. Where are the season's strong looks? The pencil or pleated skirts, greys and pinks, the embroidery? Hard to find among an abundance of genteel classics in colours - stone, ecru, navy - not calculated to flatter the English skin. Brave exceptions include lilac two-piece suits from Caroline Charles and Paddy Campbell, an excellent snake-skin sandal from Joseph Azagury, and a nod to high fashion in the form of Patsy Seddon's butterfly shift. But the prevailing tone is both timid and expensive - enough to make you feel quite fond of Oxford Street.

© Vertbaudet 0500 332211; Cyrilus 0171-734 6650; Boden 0181-453 1535; Next 0345 100500; Principles 0990 779779; Kingshill 01494 890555



This bronzer may look like the rest, but Sunny Disposition is fantastic. Take an enormous, firm bristled brush and sweep it over your face and neck. The colour goes on evenly, doesn't streak, and despite its strong colouring, it is suitable for all skin colours. Free of glittery particles, oil, talc and aluminium, it won't clog pores. The colour is so natural that you really do look sun-kissed. Sunny Disposition bronzing powder by Origins, £14.50, from Harrods (0800 7314039)

مكتبة من الأصيل

THE BEST

loral or ty coloured, six of the od plates to altimes.

WHITE DUSE PLATE

mm at this antelated 16 from the 16 m-stale arman 10

free - Egn 12

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

MINIATED 1. EGS

حكايا من الاجل

'The Mafia? Never heard of it'

Many of his clients' names end in vowels but Oscar Goodman denies links to the Mob. By Giles Whittell

Oscar Goodman is not sure precisely where, but somewhere in the urban desert of east Los Angeles there is a Rolls-Royce that belongs to him. The car came as reimbursement for a party he paid for after getting Little Nicky Scarfo acquitted of murder in a trial the prosecution was not supposed to lose.

The venue was Philadelphia, in 1986. The cognac was \$800 (£500) a bottle and the Dom Perignon found its way on to the ceiling of the Four Seasons hotel. The cigars were Cuban and the salami was Italy's finest. The trouble was, Little Nicky's nephew couldn't pay the \$17,000 bill, and his uncle was still in jail on another matter. Hence the Rolls.

Goodman accepted it, but the FBI impounded it. The Bureau said it had been used for a drug deal two years earlier. Goodman spent \$100,000 worth of his own time getting it back from a federal appeals court, then shipped it out west to be restored. (There were rumours of bullet holes and bugs.) "So I sent it down to LA to one of our clients who restores cars and, lo and behold, the guy gets arrested for murder." Goodman tips back in a green velvet armchair in his Las Vegas office and laughs uproariously. "This is one bad-luck car. When I finally get it here I plan to get a 'MOB FEE' licence plate and drive it past the FBI and honk my horn and maybe throw 'em a bone or something. Then I'm going to give it to charity."

Goodman doesn't need the cachet of driving a Rolls, nor the cash from selling it. He has plenty of both, thanks to 32 years as a trial lawyer defending alleged bosses of a Mafia whose existence he steadfastly denies.

He is well-known in Vegas: a friend to casino presidents, owner of his office block, resident of the only tree-lined street in town and the natural choice for Mike Tyson when he bit Evander Holyfield's ear and needed a good lawyer, fast. "I don't have a big head," he says. "I got a big ego. I guess a big head thinks they're important but a big ego knows they're important."

His dangerous and controversial career is being unwrapped on film for the first time tomorrow in a

documentary demurely entitled *Mob Law*. He may dispute the semantics of his links to organised crime, but you get the feeling he enjoys all the attention.

A stack of *Mob Law* posters (featuring his own silver-bearded visage) sits on his office sofa, the latest addition to a huge collection of Goodman memorabilia that doubles as a glimpse of Vegas past. The walls are hung with signed photos of celebrities - Wayne Newton, Joe Pesci, LaToya Jackson - and with courtroom sketches of grateful clients "whose names happen to end in vowels". There is a still from Martin Scorsese's *Casino* of Goodman playing himself opposite Robert De Niro (as Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal). And there is a pair of steel balls over the door - a tribute from Charlie "The Moose" Panorama to the *cojones* Goodman showed in refusing to tell the taxman what The Moose and Big Chris Richichi had paid him over the years.

The FBI considers Goodman a Mafia consigliere and has tried for years to bring him down. Goodman considers himself a champion of freedom and attorney-client privilege. "I have never been to a Mafia meeting," he says with a straight face - albeit one that loosens up when showing off the "Godfather Room", in which he holds his own board meetings.

"I know what the Government says, but over the years my clients have never even suggested to me that there is an organisation such as the Mafia."

Many of those clients are dead now, but Goodman won't budge. Tony "The Ant" Spilotro, for example, was bludgeoned almost to death then buried alive in a shallow grave in an Indiana cornfield in 1983. Allegedly the Chicago Mob's Las Vegas enforcer, he was linked to 22 murders, including one of a suspected informant said to have died when his skull was squeezed so hard in a vice that his eyes popped out. Goodman had The Ant acquitted in that case, and remembers him fondly. "The Tony Spilotro I knew was a fella who was respectful. He listened to everything I had to say as a lawyer, the FBI is not too happy with me because at one point I said I'd rather have my daughter go out

with Tony Spilotro than an FBI agent." Still, it is one of Goodman's proudest boasts that Spilotro never spent a day in jail, and when the FBI alleges that the judge in the eye-pop murder trial was on the take, Goodman responds: "They're full of crap."



Fear and lawyers in Las Vegas: Goodman received \$3,000 for his first case, defending a porn distributor. He was so nervous that he threw up outside the courthouse

relationship with the feds. "But we come to it from an intellectual perspective. They don't see the big picture of constitutionally protected rights and liberties. They have no philosophy. We do."

It all started with a big-time Canadian porn distributor whose brother faced a federal trial for stealing a car. Goodman got the case by pure luck through a blackjack pit boss he had met soon after coming to Las Vegas with his wife in 1965. "I got a call to go to a fellow's home to pick up something," he recalls. "I'm scared to death. I was a baby." He was given \$3,000 in cash and told not to lose, which left him so nervous that he threw up on the pavement outside

the federal courthouse. He won, the brother walked and Goodman's name began to do the rounds. His national reputation was secured when he took on 19 federal Mob-related wire fraud cases in 1970 and won them all on the ground that the FBI wiretap permits had been incorrectly signed. In due course he avoided trials for Rosenthal and Meyer Lansky (allegedly the Mob's financial supremo) by arguing that they were too ill, and stunned a Texas court by winning an acquittal for Jimmy Chagra in a trial held in a courtroom named after a judge he was accused of murdering.

These esteemed businessmen were grateful. Goodman has been feted by them across America, and he clearly likes their style. "They're like movie figures," he says. "When you go out to dinner with them it's as though you're president of the world. The waiters can't wait to wait on you. The sommelier can't wait to get the wine. If they give you a ticket to a World Series baseball game, you're in the first row."

Such are the perks. The work is grittier. Goodman is notorious for his hatred of informers, whom he calls rats. His office is strewn with toy ones stuck in traps, and his CV with those he has demolished on the witness stand. One suffered a fate that might prey upon a lesser lawyer's conscience; he wound up dead in the desert after Goodman inadvertently implied that this

would help his client's case. (Not that the client had anything to do with it, of course.)

There was a lesson in this - misunderstandings happen - but in the new Vegas it scarcely applies. Ten times bigger than when giant corporations began squeezing out the mobsters in the early Eighties, Las Vegas is also cleaner, blander and less fun for Goodman. But it's still home. "After all these years I get a little respect from the judges, a little fear from the prosecutors and a little love from my clients," he says, feeding the carp in the pond behind his house. "I suppose that's what life's all about."

● *Mob Law* is on Channel 4 on Saturday at 9.30pm.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET



"The Internet. Is there a way to cut through the jungle?"

LineOne is the fastest way to cut through the jungle of the Internet. It's what you want to know.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www.LineOne.net

It's what you want to know

PC Price Crash

Time cuts out the middleman to offer you new higher specification Family PC models this Easter with even lower prices and including a FREE printer for a limited period.

SAVE UP TO £900!

233 Family PC™

- 233MHz Intel Pentium™ processor with MMX™ technology
- 32MB RAM
- 4.3Gb hard disk
- 56Kb modem
- 4MB ATI 3D Graphics
- 32x MAX CD-ROM
- 3D waveable sound
- SRS25 stereo speaker system
- Over 1200 software titles including Windows 95
- 90 minute VHS video trainer
- Year 2000 compliant
- 14" SVGA colour screen (15" optional extra)
- ATX mid tower with all standard features
- 14 Day money back guarantee (see carriage)
- FREE Epson 300 colour printer

Product code 14 402 07 01

266-2 Family PC™

- As 233M but with:
- 64MB RAM
- 6.4Gb hard disk
- 14MB ATI AGP-2 3D graphics
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional extra)
- Includes 56k modem, 32x CD and other items as 233M
- Includes FREE Epson 300 colour printer

Product code 14 403 07 02

£1049

266M-2 Family PC™

- High performance model only 486 - VMT - 127 56 mb
- As 266M-2 model but with:
- Faster 5MB cache
- Faster bus speed motherboard with 4MB SCS
- Advanced Graphics - 1MB SCS Gold speed
- FREE Epson 400 colour printer

Product code 14 404 07 03

266M-2 TVX Family PC™

- Only 128M - VMT - 127 56 mb
- As 266M-2 model above but with:
- Monitor 8.4Gb
- Hard drive, PCTV system with Telesat and VideoPhone receive
- FREE 1400dpi Epson 400 colour printer

Product code 14 405 07 04

43 UK Showrooms

EXEC Models

Buy Now... Pay Oct 1998

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

0% APR

Freezone Time Now!

0800 771107

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

All offers end April 15th

Why Asians must be free to choose

The West should press harder for human rights, says John Lloyd

The latest film to demonstrate how much Hollywood cares about Tibet — *Kundun* — has a scene in which Mao Zedong says softly into the ear of the young Dalai Lama (after ordering the slaughter of a large number of the youth's citizens): "Your people are poisoned and inferior." The film goes on release in Britain today, just as the Asian conference brings South-East Asian leaders to London to talk to their European counterparts.

The question of human rights hangs like a bad smell over the talks — with the issue of Asian values. Though neither will get much of an airing at the conference, both are central to it.

The Asian model — with its focused, family-centred, respectful to authority, hard-working, innovation-friendly mentality — ceased to be promoted when the region went into crisis last year. This was in spite of the fact that countries such as Singapore have continued to be successful, even booming. Instead of recommending their way of doing things, the leaders of these states will be pressing the European heads of government for urgent help.

Do we feel *Schadenfreude*? You bet. It is good news that a system which prizes lack of transparency, cronyism, regimentation and rigid sexual division should be shown to be prey to the same problems that such practices meet in the West. It is good news that Japanese, Koreans and Indonesians find much of the rationale for the "Asian model" a screen for the abuse of power. They will not, to remedy it, become the same as us — if for no other reason than that the "us" in Europe and the United States is very diverse. But the thesis that these practices are a Confucian civilisation which is more or less eternally disposed to authoritarianism seems to be wrong.

Human rights is a part of this, but one should make distinctions. Singapore has not been a haven of liberalism and the Opposition chafes under close constraints — but it does not (as far as is known) execute and incarcerate dissidents by their thousands. Indeed, its trend seems unevenly towards greater liberality: censorship has been eased on the Internet and risqué plays and films are seen.

China does, as is known, torture and incarcerate dissidents and furiously rebuffs any attempt to draw attention to this and other practices — as the suppression of freedom in Tibet and the constant pressure on Taiwan shows. But a rough consensus on China has consolidated itself in the West: that is, that Western governments should call attention to abuses of human rights, at times employ minor "punishments" — but generally engage with the country that is assumed to be the 21st century's superpower, and not isolate and demonise it in the way they treated the Soviet Union for most of the postwar period. This might be called — to paraphrase Deng Xiaoping —

Europe talks loudly to China, but carries a small stick

the tactic of talking loudly, but carrying a small stick. Thus Zhu Rongji, the new Chinese Prime Minister and the star of Asem, had something of a lionising in Guildhall on Wednesday night, speaking for about 40 minutes without notes on his economic reforms. The two demonstrators on Chinese oppression in Tibet who entered the hall made no dent on him and elicited impatience from the City audience: the dark underbelly of Chinese rule is not germane to the big picture, as seen by both business and governments.

There is a perfectly good political, rationale for this purpose blindness. So long as the concern shown for dissidents is not wholly bogus — and it is not — then their release, or better treatment, is more likely to be achieved when there is a mutual relationship within which leverage can be exerted, than in a context in which disengagement is already a fact. However, the evidence for this is not overwhelming: both dissidents like Wei Jingsheng and non-governmental pressure groups such as Amnesty strongly believe that systems like China's respond to hard pressure, not to collaborative relationships. One of the responses, however, could be not to buy the goods which the more critical countries produce. That is often the crux for governments anxious to provide jobs for economies increasingly exposed to international competition.

What was said of the Soviet Union is now being said of Russia — that neither has a philosophical tradition of civil or human rights, that both are alien implants, that the proselytisation of liberal values is inappropriate, even racist.

This is wrong on two grounds. First, what other reference do we have, when judging our relationships with other societies, than our own values? Communists, as the Chinese authorities claim they are, have long deployed a battery of values with which to judge democratic capitalist societies — often values which justified their efforts to undermine these societies. Diplomacy can continue up to states of overt war; but a deepening relationship between states has to be conducted at least partly on the basis of ethical values.

Secondly values and practices are not eternal in any state — especially now. The agonies of Russia, on which the Chinese look with contempt, are those of authoritarian habit trying to capture democratic behaviour — which, in a country which had so little of it, is hugely prized.

Do we think China is intrinsically different? That its people have no wish for the autonomies of speech, profession and political choice that we take pretty much for granted? Now that really would be racist.

The author is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.



The promised land

Labour is doing just what the spin-doctors ordered. So why expect more?

Well what did you expect? Angels? Miracles? Manna? Alastair Campbell in a frock prancing through daisies and singing *The hills are alive with the sound of music*?

Did you think that after May 1, 1997, the laws of nature would be suspended, that night would cease to follow day, autumn would never again yield to winter and there would be no hangovers any more? Did you really believe that what had always been would cease to be?

I am becoming embarrassed at the speed and vehemence with which rice people with brains are falling out of love with new Labour. How can I, a passionate Blairite from day one, say this — but aren't people being a bit hard on this Government? This Government has done just what it said it would do: this Government has not done any of the monstrous things the Tories claimed it would do: this Government's behaviour is wholly consistent with the character new Labour established long before the general election; Tony Blair has turned out to be precisely the man who emerged into the hall in Bloomsbury on the day of his coronation as party leader, in July 1994, and let loose what Simon Jenkins described as "a numbing fusillade of platitudes... filling space with a frothy concoction devoid of meaning".

And things stay as John Major left them, pretty humdrum, blackbirds still sing and the Labour Left remains what it became the instant Blair assumed the party leadership: a voice crying in the wilderness.

We have a do-nothing Government, well-intentioned but with a ferocious instinct for power, characterised in matters of domestic policy by a naive enthusiasm for a market-based mixed economy, in matters of foreign policy by a wait-and-see approach to Europe and a respectful attitude to the United States, in matters of taste by vulgaritarianism, in matters of presentation and structure by a ruthless determination to centralise and control, and led by a philosophically confused reactionary with a strong native caution, a flair for visionary rhetoric and an evangelical streak. They're not a very nice crowd — but, for heaven's sake, did you really think they were going to be nice? Tories weren't very nice. Labour have always been perfectly horrid. Even Liberal Democrats aren't nice. So no change there: none was promised.

nice? What in the world could have led anyone to expect differently? The one surprise is that new Labour is fulfilling its promises on the constitution. Suddenly the newspapers are breathlessly pointing out that the Government's devolutionary programme is a slippery slope to federalism — as though the constitutional map had not been clearly set out before the election and the signposts to the slippery slope placed by dissenters years ago on the Road to the Manifesto.

Suddenly the editorial columns of newspapers are announcing that it is not enough to abolish hereditary peers: we shall have to think what to put in their place. But that was clear the moment Labour promised reform, long before the election. When Lord Jenkins of Hillhead's commission on electoral reform reports, a startled British media will start squealing that this is all very problematical.

Labour's pledges on the constitution were uncharacteristically bold. In almost every other field — and behind the gaudy rhetoric — timidity was the keynote of Mr Blair's promise and timidity has been the keynote of his practice. The fine phrases about a "welfare revolution" were always hedged with assurances about free healthcare, the protection of the state pension and the inviolability of the core of our benefits system. These assurances have been honoured, so there will be no welfare revolution. Frank Field will continue Peter Lilley's intelligent sniping operation. As there never was an internal NHS market, abolishing it will cause little pain.

London hospitals will continue to be closed in all but name and, whatever irritation is caused by marginal changes to "choice" in education, my one big worry, that Labour would return a serious measure of control over schools (or anything else) to local authorities, looks ungrounded. New Labour distrusts local government even more than the Tories, thank heaven. So no change there: none was promised.

Matthew Parris

The only reason the arts world is so disappointed with new Labour's performance is that it worked itself into a quite unreasonable frenzy of expectation. It was a frenzy Blair and his henchmen did nothing to arouse. The manifesto promised little on the arts. Anyone can see new Labour is philistine — can't they?

Right at the centre of the Labour election manifesto was this paragraph: "For the next two years Labour will work within the departmental ceilings for spending already announced. We will resist unreasonable demands on the public purse, including any unreasonable public sector pay demands." You can't say fairer than that, can you? Labour said it repeatedly. The Tories said they were lying. Old Labour and the Left hoped the Tories were right. But there were not. What the Tories and Middle Britain feared was that new Labour had a concealed plan to reverse the central reforms of the Thatcher/Major years: privatisation, tax cuts and the muzzling of the trade unions. The British Right intimated that if Blair won on May 1 he would leap from his new Daimler, tear off his cloak of moderation and reveal himself as a donkey-jacketed socialist revolutionary.

The British Right is still waiting. In Melanesia there exist Cargo Cults of natives who once saw a Second World War US Air Force transport plane land supplies on their island, and to this day they lay out ritualistic runways with landing flares, to await a Second Landing. Part of the Conservative Party displays worrying signs of turning itself into a new kind of Cargo Cult, ready to mobilise resistance against a Second Socialist Revolution.

It has not come. It will not come. Underneath Blair's cloak of moderation is a slightly mixed-up individual who is rock-solid only in his determination not to frighten the horses and his instinct to make deals with people who could hurt him.

Tony Blair's talent is his sense of style and his genius for message-

control. But Alastair Campbell, Peter Mandelson, Millbank Tower and the whole army of Steptford surgeons he leads were all firmly and very publicly in place long before 1997. We used to write obsessively about them. How can anyone who reported Labour's Project Victory, with Win '97 stickers and fruit-flavouring-coloured posters, complain now that we have elected a Government of PRs and control freaks? Yes, new Labour's platoon of backbench jelly babies make a disgusting spectacle, but so, at the height of her intimidatory powers, did Margaret Thatcher's. These things never last.

This monolith, too, is beginning to crack. As a Tory, of course, I would love to see all those bigheads who wagged their fingers at us for so long get their come-uppance now. But as an ordinary citizen I have to observe that Britain is not being badly governed, that it was never sensibly to expect we should be well-governed, and that the most we can ever hope is that things do not fall apart. Under new Labour things are not falling apart. We should ask ourselves whether the disappointment felt by some may arise not from the Government falling short of what it promised — but short of what voters promised themselves would be the difference. A nation sick of the Tories really wanted to believe that Tony walked on water. He does enjoy the sub-messianic strut, and I'm afraid we rather encouraged him in it.

Britain which had involved Tony Blair in his own private fantasies now excoriates him for falling short in his public performance. Ask whether that is his fault, or ours.

As a boy I was much struck by a poem. The lines imprinted themselves in my brain — but I have never seen them since, nor been able to discover the identity of the author. I think it was about a youth in England who ran away to Scotland in search of a new world: "But he found / That the ground / Was as hard / That a yard / Was as long / That a song / Was as merry / That a cherry / Was as red ... As in England."

We British have run away with a new Government. But we find / That the grind / Is as bleak / That the weak / Have no voices / That the choices / Are as tough / That the guff / Is as silly ... As the Tories. So what did we expect?

Philip Howard



I'm not one to gossip... but draw up a chair

Tell it not in naval Bath, publish it not in the streets of Aldershot. The affair between the army Colonel and the Wren Lieutenant-Commander fills even the heavy front pages with salacious material, love poems that seem familiar and Smith Minor Latin tags dimly in every sense remembered from prep school. And it fills the high-minded with indignation about gossip that goes in one ear and in another.

Is it deplorable that people are more interested in such crinkum-crankum than in the state of the pound (robust) or progress in the Irish/Middle East peace talks (improscopible) or the stripes on the "tiger" economies (incomprehensible)? The court martial must be hell and humiliation for all concerned, especially the spouses and families of the parties of the first part. It is sad and funny that two of the smallest appendages of the male, one being the tongue, should cause scandal. One should never repeat gossip. So listen carefully the first time.

For man is a gossiping animal. This human activity is far older (and more important) than economics. When they were not fighting or hunting, our rude forefathers and foremothers were gossiping around the camp fire. To be human is to be interested in the oddities of human nature. One hates repeating gossip; but really, what else can one do with it? As the first of the recorded gossips noticed, "Two opinions do not well on the same Boulster." John Aubrey was referring not to the Colonel and his erstwhile lover, though Aubrey might well have gone in for anachronistic gossip. He went in for everything else. Aubrey was in fact talking about John Milton's royalist wife.

And until recently Aubrey was dismissed by the high-minded as a trivial gossip. His first biographer judged: "He was a shiftless person, roving and maggot-headed, and sometimes little better than crazy." His most recent judgment that he was: "About as credulous an old goose as one could hope to find out of Gotham." Only recently has Aubrey been admitted to the dictionaries of quotations. Before he was reckoned trivial and improper. But in this age of gossip more of him now gets in with every edition. And Michael Williams's one-man show, *Brief Lives*, illustrates that there was wisdom and tragedy as well as hot air in the old boy.

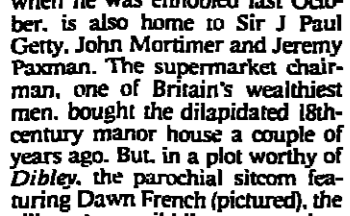
His gossiping memories of his celebrated and nonentity contemporaries have lived far longer than the acts and words of the serious men of the 17th century. He recorded much oral history of the Elizabethans, three centuries before oral history was discovered. He had a taste for salacious gossip far less cagey than modern gossip columns. Mistress Overall, wife of the Dean of St Paul's, was discovered in *flagrant* "upon Sir John Selby's bed as flat as any flounder". The Countess of Pembroke had a "videtto" or peephole made for her at Milton House so she could watch the stallions "leape the mares, and then act the like sport herself with her stallions". I fear that our modern public gossips would be more mealy-mouthed and less entertaining.

The most memorable stories of his age — Queen Elizabeth and the fart, Sir Walter Raleigh and the Maid of Honour — come from Aubrey. Tarara Palmer-Pumkinson, "Lord" Geoffrey Archness and the other denizens of the modern miscellaneous gossip columns depend for their bubble fame on modern Aubreys such as our Jasper and Peterbore. Aubrey was a biographer before Boswell and a celebrity archaeologist before Glyn Daniel. Three centuries before the notion was discovered, Aubrey knew that a biographer records private eccentricity as well as public achievement.

For instance, on the President of his beloved Trinity College, Oxford, Ralph Kettel: "As they were reading of inscribing and circumscribing figures, said he, I will show you how to inscribe a triangle in a quadrangle. Bring a pig into the quadrangle and I will set the college dog at him, and he will take the pig by the ear, then I come and take the dog by the tail and the hog by the tail, and so there you have a triangle in a quadrangle; quod erat faciendum." That happy image has worn better than all Dr Kettel's learned lectures. So honour and beware the gossip columnist. They have the gift of immortality. Without curiosity about our fellow-travellers on our fool's errand, life would be doubly dull.

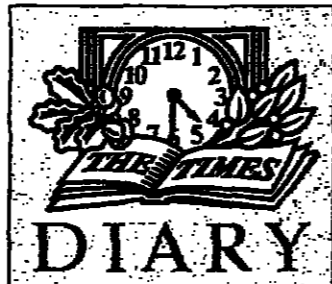
Country strife

THE bucolic charms of a Buckinghamshire village have been upset by a whispering campaign against Lord Sainsbury of Turville who is renovating a house there. A resident of Turville, the setting for *The Vicar of Dibley*, the television entertainment, is sending out an anonymous and vitriolic missive, complaining that the supermarket magnate is displaying "astounding clumsiness in his relations with his soon-to-be new neighbours". Turville, from which Sainsbury (pictured) took his title when he was ennobled last October, is also home to Sir J Paul Getty, John Mortimer and Jeremy Paxman. The supermarket chairman, one of Britain's wealthiest men, bought the dilapidated 18th-century manor house a couple of years ago. But, in a plot worthy of *Dibley*, the parochial sitcom featuring Dawn French (pictured), the villagers' scribbles excoriate Sainsbury for "gutting the house to remove all vestiges of period charm".



● **YVETTE COOPER**, the Labour MP with an Oxford first and Harvard scholarship, is playing dumb. "This millennium bug is certainly bugging me. I just don't understand it," she told her local print. Maybe her husband can help: Ed Balls is economic adviser to Gordon Brown, who is spending millions zapping the bug.

● **Book bind** MARGARET BECKETT is making an unlikely attempt to join Cool



Britannia. The President of the Board of Trade is to appear today Jackie Collins-like at a London bookshop to sign copies of her latest masterpiece. Beckett's debut on the literary circuit is in aid of *Powerhouse:uk*, British creativity now — a "limited edition publication which explains with razor edge graphics how Britain has become a centre of creative energy". Zsuzsanna, the Charing Cross shop hosting the event, fears a stampede: "There could be anything from 20 to 100 people there." But a large book at the outlet was bemused by her presence: "I'm not quite sure why she is signing copies. She only wrote the foreword."

● **BAD cop, good cop**. After 19 departures at the Royal Opera House during the past month, including Mary Allen, its chief execu-

ive, Pelham Allen (no relation), the new boss, has taken to being nice to staff. He is providing each employee with two complementary tickets to see *La Traviata* in May. He has also authorised the provision of tea and coffee to all departments. I wonder how long the honeymoon will last.

Puppet state

KERMIT the Frog has come to the rescue of the Middle East peace process. Jim Henson Co has produced an Arab-Israeli version of *Sesame Street*, the television show, which made its debut in the troubled region this week. The produc-



ers hope that the series will "break down stereotypes and encourage co-operation between young people from different backgrounds".

But, despite the good intentions, art reflects life. The Israeli and Palestinian Muppets have been given separate streets in the show. Last year, the filming of a critical scene, in which the Muppets meet, was delayed because of a nearby bomb scare. At least the two sides agree on one issue: there will be no role for Miss Piggy (pictured).

● **RALPH FIENNES**, the matinee idol, is, I am told, thinking of changing his first name: he is fed up with people pronouncing it "Ralf" rather than "Ralph".

Time out

DAME Maggie Smith's recent widowhood has disrupted the filming of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*. The new series of his acclaimed monologues was about to record the grand actress's slot when Beverly Cross, her husband, died. "We want to give her as much time as possible," says a member of Bennett's team. I am sure the wait will be worth it.

● **JENNIFER ANISTON** is to speak the words of Ted Hughes on the big screen. The adorable ac-



triss (pictured), who appears as the waitress in *Friends*, is expected to be signed as the lead female voice in Warner Brothers's £40 million cartoon version of *The Iron Man*, the poet laureate's classic for children. The book tells of a tractor-eating giant let down by the human race until he saves the world from a space dragon. The reported response from Hughes to the news was suitably cerebral: "What is *Friends*?"

JASPER GERARD



BLAIR'S BOTTOM LINE

Peace talks need principles as well as flexibility

Only last month the Prime Minister declared that a settlement in Northern Ireland was "agonisingly close". Since then the agony has been more apparent than the proximity of any agreement. The discovery, in the Irish Republic, of a car bomb destined for England is only the latest evidence of a continuing campaign of republican terrorism. The complaints, from the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, of an impasse in talks are only the latest proof of how difficult it is to settle ancient quarrels within a timetable measured in hours. The deadline for an agreement is only a week away but the prospect of the two Governments, let alone all the parties, agreeing seems at the moment tragically distant.

A descent into despair would be premature. Roadblocks have been bypassed before. But Tony Blair cannot buy assent from Dublin at the expense of the democratic majority in Northern Ireland. He must make it clear to Dublin that its current position is not only calculated to influence Unionist sentiment but also runs contrary to democratic principle. Any agreement depends on the Irish Government using its authority to push through a change to Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's Constitution in a referendum. The articles embody Dublin's claim to jurisdiction over Northern Ireland.

This week, the junior Irish Foreign Office minister, Liz O'Donnell, argued that removing "from the Constitution the birthright and the allegiance of northern nationalists" would be "a bridge too far". It is, on the contrary, a Rubicon which was already believed to have been crossed. The amendment of the Irish Constitution to remove this irredentist claim is not only overdue in itself, it has been understood to be an absolute precondition of a settlement. Mr Ahern has come under pressure from backbenchers to hang tough, lest they lose seats to Sinn Fein, and the republicans, in consequence, hold

the balance of power in Dublin. One, Conor Lenihan, has argued against British pressure, saying "do they want to see a government dependent on Sinn Fein?" But a Government that declines to stand firm and change Articles 2 and 3 looks uncomfortably as though it does not just depend on, but takes direction from, Sinn Fein.

Articles 2 and 3 inflame Unionists and lend a spurious legitimacy to republican violence without protecting legitimate nationalist interests. Those interests will be safeguarded by the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, to which both London and Dublin are signatories and which comes into force on May 1. This legally binding agreement protects minority rights while "respecting the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of states". There is, in logic and law, no longer any justification for temporising by the Irish Government on the removal of its claim.

Leadership from Dublin is required before there can be any heading in Belfast. But if the Irish Government shows courage then Unionists can feel more confident about the creation of cross-border bodies to enhance co-operation between North and South. Those bodies, however, must be designed so that any powers they exercise are deployed only with the agreement of majorities on both sides of the border, rather than a bare majority across it. Any cross-border body which could take decisions without the approval of Northern Ireland's properly elected majority would be as offensive to democratic principle and progressive sentiment as Articles 2 and 3. Mr Blair knows that no agreement he makes with Mr Ahern will become the basis for an honourable settlement unless these bottom lines are adhered to. He must ensure that Mr Ahern conveys that message in unambiguous terms to his colleagues.

OFFICE AND POWER

Clinton returns more secure but with a limited domestic agenda

Ten weeks ago Monica Lewinsky, President Clinton's former intern, appeared to have ruined him. Today Judge Susan Webber Wright, Mr Clinton's former law student, seems to have rescued his presidency. Her decision that Paula Jones had not suffered sufficient personal damage to have cause for redress has come at an exceptionally late stage in the legal process. It is difficult to understand why such a determination could not have been reached earlier. Nonetheless, this unexpected ruling has utterly altered the dynamics surrounding the Clinton scandals. An appeal to the Supreme Court might be lodged but it is unlikely to be answered.

The President's victory will have wider ramifications. Strictly speaking, Kenneth Starr's separate investigations into the Lewinsky affair and the original Whitewater enterprise are unaffected by the collapse of the Jones trial. In practice, the impact is profound. It is hard to imagine the courts or Congress chasing Mr Clinton for an alleged perjury at the deposition stage of a civil case that never came to court, especially as the most important witness, Ms Lewinsky, has refused to co-operate with the independent counsel. Mr Starr must return to square one.

In fact, matters are worse than that. Mr Starr's public standing has been thoroughly tarnished of late. In part, this has been the result of his own presentational errors. However, it has been predominantly the outcome of a ruthless campaign of vilification run from the White House. Mr Starr will be under enormous pressure to wrap up his work in a matter of weeks. Unless he has uncovered some devastating new evidence relating to Whitewater, his efforts will not

lead to indictment or impeachment. The President's escape is not without costs or consequences. He has triumphed on a technical issue. Judge Wright did not argue that the original alleged offence could not have occurred nor did she discount the notion that the President is a sexual predator. This was hardly the "vindication" that the Clinton camp claims. The lurid material that would have surfaced in court will doubtless come out in the media. Mr Clinton can no longer cite legal reasons why he cannot discuss his relationship with Ms Lewinsky. His courtroom dangers may be over but the embarrassing disclosures will continue.

The most substantial impact has been on Mr Clinton's effectiveness in Washington. For the past ten weeks he has been incapable of advancing the agenda of increased childcare and education spending, largely funded by a tobacco industry settlement, that he outlined in his State of the Union address. Congress is now inclined to direct whatever money is available to transportation infrastructure. This is loss of presidential influence cannot now be reversed.

Furthermore, damage has been done to the President's Democratic Party. The Clinton scandals have discouraged serious potential candidates for the mid-term elections from putting themselves forward. The slim chance of the House of Representatives changing hands this November looks even more slender. Ironically, the other politician with cause to thank Judge Wright is Newt Gingrich. He has avoided an impeachment procedure that he obviously dreaded. He can also be more confident that, like Mr Clinton, he will be in office next year.

MONSTER OF IMPENITENCE

A man of Vichy finally brought to book

The trial of Maurice Papon for crimes against humanity, the longest in postwar France, has confirmed the great difficulty of establishing the truth more than 50 years after the event. Memories can be imprecise, the degree of intention contested, the defence more easily mounted that an individual is being "unjustly sacrificed" to expiate the crimes of a regime. The victims in this case were silenced long ago. All but 30 of the 1,560 Jews deported from Bordeaux between 1942 and 1944, when M Papon was the senior regional official responsible for "Jewish Questions", met their deaths in Nazi camps.

The verdict will not satisfy many survivors of the Holocaust, including the relatives of those whose deportation this zealous servant of Vichy helped to organise; but it vindicates the whole contentious process. The jury had to rule on no fewer than 769 questions. Their verdict, which shows every mark of having been reached with the most scrupulous attention to the specifics of personal innocence or guilt, convicts M Papon of complicity in the detentions and deportations, and acquits him of murder. The sentence, ten years, seems paltry for crimes against humanity; but monstrous through M Papon's crime was, it would have been wrong to rank him with Eichmann as a prime mover in Hitler's "final solution".

But he neither was, nor saw himself as, the insignificant cog in the machine that his defence lawyers sought to portray. He was an arrogant, ambitious careerist and one the skilful enough to glide from Vichy into the highest ranks of France's postwar Establish-

ment. Any misgivings there have been in France about the wisdom of bringing him to trial should have been dispelled by his repugnant closing address to the court.

In a speech devoid, as all his statements have been, of any hint of self-doubt, he denounced the trial as a fake, dismissed the vast dossier of evidence as a mass of "lies, insults and infamies" trawled from "the gutter of the media to poison public opinion", and accused the prosecution of totalitarianism. He even, with supreme insensitivity, told the jury that if they found him guilty, they would commit an historic "fault" comparable to the 19th-century Dreyfus case, France's most celebrated instance of rank injustice motivated by anti-Semitism. Only a man contemptuous of the very concept of accountability could have told the leading prosecutor that he would "go down in history, but by the servant's entrance". This, from a man the core of whose defence was that, under Vichy and throughout his life, he had simply acted as the patriotic servant of the State.

M Papon is unlikely to endure life "below stairs"; at 87, he may be expected to die at liberty. Excused prison during his trial on grounds of failing health, he will continue to sip superior clarets in the best restaurants while his lawyers explore every avenue of appeal. The State has shown him more mercy than he showed the Jews. But honourably, it has not shown mercy to those who preferred to consign a hideous aspect of Vichy to oblivion. This painful *recherche du temps perdu* was necessary to France.

'Burden' to trade of a strong pound

From Mr Stephen Howd

Sir, Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, is reported (April 1) as saying that, in the longer term, membership of the single currency may prove to be the only way to curb damaging swings in the value of the currency.

This, with respect, is nonsense. The most important trading currency in the world is the US dollar, in which all or almost all commodities are priced. Over the past year sterling has remained broadly constant in value against the dollar, whilst the ERM currencies have depreciated against the dollar by over 9 per cent.

Had the UK been a participant in a single currency, and therefore suffered a similar depreciation in the value of its currency, the result would have been a substantial rise in raw materials prices, which would have compounded the inflationary effects on our economy of unrealistically low Euro interest rates.

Having our own currency allows its value to reflect the real trading patterns of our economy. Despite 25 years of EEC/EMU membership, the United States remains our biggest trading partner by far.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HOWD
(Chairman, Hook & Airymyn Branch, Brigg & Goole Conservative Association),
Hook House, Hook,
Nr Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 5PN.
ge92@aol.com
April 1.

From Mr R.J. West

Sir, Daily I grow sicker of hearing so-called captains of industry whingeing and whining about the "strong pound". The pound is not strong. It hasn't moved more than a few cents against the US dollar all year.

The real problem is that the franc and mark are steadily weakening, because the markets are revealing what our Euro-politically-correct corporates are trying to hide — that the EMU project is politically instead of economically motivated, and therefore doomed to damage the participant economies, perhaps beyond recognition.

Failure to heed this blatant warning by artificially weakening the pound for kamikaze political or narrow, corporate economic reasons would be a sign that the lunatics have surely taken over the asylum.

Yours etc,
RON WEST,
158 Chichester Road,
Croydon, Surrey CR0 5LT.
ron_west@compuserve.com
March 31.

From Mr Andrew Tessler

Sir, Your correspondents (letters, March 27) are rightly concerned about the problems facing British exporters and Professor Chelsum's advice to improve design and quality is eminently sound. But his approach would take quite a few years to bear fruit.

There is another approach open to exporters with immediate benefits which can substantially lessen the burden of the strong pound. That is forward currency planning within the framework of the forward currency market.

Surprisingly, only some 10 per cent of exporting companies are using it, and they happen to be among the most profitable companies in the country. The indifference of the other 90 per cent is a sad reflection on the reluctance of exporters to embrace unfamiliar ideas.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TESSLER
(Managing Director),
The Financial Forum,
Silverwood, Park Copse,
Dorking RH4 4BL.

From Mr Roger Sinnott

Sir, A strong pound will harm our exports, and lead to another recession. But just a minute! Let's not forget: for so many years the pound languished at F7.5/DM2.3. Where was the huge surge in exports, the boom economy surging on the wave of exchange rate opportunity? Our exporters were not trampled in the rush to undercut our world competitors.

Germany has based its solid economy on a strong currency, and despite recent problems compounded by unification, is still seen as the model of a healthy economy. We can and must compete with a strong currency especially during our years in the wilderness leading up to EMU.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SINNETT,
2 Holmleigh, Priory Road,
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 8EA.
April 1.

Sales drive

From Mr Roger Morton

Sir, There has been a recent proliferation of home-made signs in this area exhorting us to "Buy British beef". I was particularly interested to note two examples on the rear of R-registration four-wheel-drive vehicles — an Isuzu Trooper and a Jeep Cherokee.

Yours,
ROGER MORTON,
Flat 3, 4/5 Market Street,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1LE.
roger.morton
@tdh07.rbg1.siemens.de
April 2.

Local and historical lessons on PR

From Dr Michael Temple

Sir, Michael Pinto-Duschinsky's well-informed article today ("The Tories are about to be poll-axed") makes an assumption that one of the consequences of electoral reform will be Lab-Lib coalition governments. It is difficult to deny that this looks likely to be the initial outcome of the first general election to be held under a more proportional system.

However, my research (with Professors Colin Callaghan and Michael Thrasher at the University of Plymouth) shows that in local government, where over 150 authorities are hung, Conservative coalitions with Liberal Democrats (and other parties) are a regular occurrence. The Conservatives, despite huge losses in local elections during 18 years of national government, still remain a force in local government.

They are a party of government above all else, and while the Tories may struggle initially with coalition politics, I would hesitate to write off a party with such a history of electoral success. Faced with a permanently hung House of Commons, I suspect the national Conservative Party would prove as adaptable as its local counterparts. If that means ditching awkward policies (EMU?) then I am sure it will not hesitate.

Yours faithfully
MICHAEL TEMPLE
(Senior lecturer in politics,
Staffordshire University,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE.
m.temple@staffs.ac.uk
March 30.

From Mr Peter Facey

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, "The primrose path of PR", March 26) has presented two arguments against proportional representation — that it is against the "robust" and "resilient" British tradition of first past the post, and that PR once helped Hitler.

In the election of November 1932 the Nazi Party gained 37 per cent of the vote and was the largest party. Hitler, with the support of some conservatives, became Chancellor of Germany. Following a questionable election in 1933, when the Nazi Party gained 44 per cent of the vote (still short of a majority), Hitler took dictatorial powers.

Had Germany had the first-past-the-post electoral system William Rees-Mogg supports then the Nazi Party would probably have won a majority in 1932, as it was the largest

party in terms of support across Germany.

But let the guilty speak for themselves: Herman Goering, at the Nuremberg trials in 1946, stated: "Had the elections been held on the British or American system, the Nazi Party would have won every seat in the Reichstag [in 1932]."

The PR system operating in Germany since 1945, though not one that I personally advocate, has produced stable and effective government. It is important to remember that PR ensures that a government needs the support of the majority of the electorate, whereas William Rees-Mogg seems satisfied to trust the largest minority.

Yours sincerely,
P. FACEY
(Parliamentary liaison and communications officer),
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancel Street,
Blackfriars, SE1 0UU.
March 26.

From Mr Joe McNamee

Sir, William Rees-Mogg makes the point that proportional representation helped Hitler and now it is helping Le Pen.

In fact, in the face of hopeless dithering and incompetence of the traditional right-wing parties, proportional representation simply made the task of progress for Hitler, and more recently for Le Pen, somewhat easier. The fact that right-wing parties have always had problems maintaining unity and fighting a common enemy is not news for Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, so I doubt if the results of the French regional elections will present him with any sort of dilemma when his committee reports on electoral reform.

Many opinion polls have shown that the huge majority of French electors see Le Pen as a threat to democracy, and an opinion poll taken at the time of the 1988 presidential election showed that only 28 per cent of Le Pen's own electors wanted him as president, a mere 5 per cent of the electorate.

If the UDF and RPR had one set of vertebrae between them, Le Pen would shrivel.

Yours,
JOE MCNAMEE,
Avenue de Cortenbergh 134-9,
Brussels B-1000.
joemc@mailvixie.com
March 26.

From the Director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering

Sir, The allegation from Liv O'Hanlon of the Adoption Forum (letter, March 28) that BAAF denies there is a serious flaw in the adoption system is grossly unfair. Only two weeks ago I was a signatory to a letter (March 13) together with Joan Lestor and Ms O'Hanlon, highlighting the urgent need for important changes in UK adoption law.

The draft adoption Bill, apparently abandoned by the current Government, would have ensured that the child's welfare was the paramount consideration in all court decisions relating to adoption, thus giving local authorities the framework in which to act. Joan Lestor's sad death (obituary, March 30) removes another great campaigner for sensible adoption laws and is a loss to us all.

There are, of course, competing priorities for parliamentary time, but there is widespread public agreement that action on adoption is needed now. The silence from the Government on the highly provocative report from the Institute of Economic Affairs (reports, March 23) has been deafening.

Yours sincerely,
FELICITY COLLIER,
Director, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering,
Skyline House,
200 Union Street, SE1 0LX.

ROH resignation

From the Chairman of the Arts Council of England

Sir, I was sad to read that Mary Allen feels that I had in some way "distorted the sequence of events and conversations" surrounding her swift appointment to the Royal Opera House ("Allen tells of shock at fall from Covent Garden", report, April 2). I do, of course, appreciate the shock she has had.

I stand entirely by the evidence I gave to the then National Heritage Select Committee on July 24 last year, which is a matter of public record, my submission was based not only on my own careful recollection but was backed up by documentary evidence signed by Mary herself.

I believe that a period of silence would now be in the best interest of the future of a great institution and of Mary herself.

Yours faithfully,
GOWRIE,
Chairman,
The Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street,
London SW1P 3NQ.
April 2.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Special licence for a church wedding

From The Registrar, Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Sir, May I comment on your recent correspondence (March 18, 25, 27) concerning the granting of special licences to be married in a Church of England church.

In contrast to civil marriages in this country, which are now in part regulated by the Marriage Act 1994, marriages in the Church of England remain subject to the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949, whose basic qualification is that of actual residence. This reflects the Church of England's support for the parochial system which serves all the citizens of England, whether practising Anglicans or not.

Archbishops of Canterbury have the power to dispense people from the normal requirements of the marriage laws to enable them to be married in parish churches for which they would not qualify by residence or in unlicensed buildings.

Because every special licence issued is, in effect, a derogation from the marriage laws and the practice of the Church, successive Archbishops have been careful to ensure that such licences are only issued for substantial reasons. In practice, this means that those applying must be able to demonstrate genuine, substantial and ongoing connections with the church or chapel where they propose to marry.

The vast majority of applications received are for those who wish to return to a family home to be married. The reasons for such applications are self-evident and they are almost always granted.

There are, however, occasions when an application is received which appears to be based upon the attractiveness of the church in question or perhaps its convenient location for the reception. The granting of such applications could not possibly be justified in the light of the residence requirements of the law.

The Faculty Office relies upon the clergy's pastoral judgment and good sense. An application for a special licence is never granted without the fullest support from the member of the clergy who is to solemnise the marriage, together with consultation with the clergy of the parishes where the parties are actually living and where they would have the absolute right to marry.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BEESLEY,
Registrar,
Faculty Office of the
Archbishop of Canterbury,
1 The Sanctuary,
Westminster, SW1P 3JT.
March 30.

'Act of blasphemy'

From Mr Peter Tron

Sir, You report ("Bible play an act of blasphemy, says pastor", March 24) on the Reduced Shakespeare Company's production, *The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)*. I am constantly amazed at the "courtesy" of these so-called radical free-thinkers who appear to take every opportunity to ridicule Christ.

No doubt they are encouraged by the knowledge that those who believe in the salvation of Christ are unlikely to respond in quite the same manner as at least some of those professing faith in another great teacher and saviour Muhammad.

Perhaps the Reduced Shakespeare Company should exercise the same toleration towards people's beliefs as they would no doubt expect when indulging their own.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TRON,
Eriskey, The Street,
Kirtling, Suffolk CB8 9PD.
March 26.

Time warps

From Mrs Hilary Kerr

Sir, Mr J. P. Chambers's letter today on the change to BST created for me a vision of people all over Europe leaping out of bed at odd hours on Sunday morning to adjust their clocks.

I suspect the reality is a little more like this household — the computer being the only clock to change at the "correct" hour. Our bedroom clock changed at 10.30 Sunday night, my watch and the kitchen clock before breakfast on Sunday, the clock in my car on Tuesday morning, the video this afternoon and the clock in my husband's car is correct for the first time since October.

Yours sincerely,
HILARY KERR,
2 Collette Cottages,
Chart Lane, Brasted,
Westerham, Kent TN16 1LP.
March 31.

Wish list

From Mr Michael R. Taylor

Sir, I saw your headline "Teenagers want lottery win instead of a job" (report, earlier editions, March 28) and thought how grown-up and mature of them. I am 63 and want exactly the same.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL R. TAYLOR,
Lindisfarne,
Luib, Broadford,
Isle of Skye IV49 9AN.
March 28.

OBITUARIES

BETSEY CUSHING WHITNEY

Betsy Cushing Whitney, New York socialite and philanthropist, died on March 25 aged 89. She was born on May 18, 1908.

Coming from a family of social mountaineers, Betsy Cushing Whitney was the last of three sisters who married spectacularly and knew and entertained not only America's richest, but also British royalty.

Her father was Dr Harvey Cushing, a neurosurgeon and a professor at Harvard and Yale. She and her two sisters were educated privately in Boston and in Connecticut, with the expectation that they would make good marriages.

When she was 22, Betsy Cushing met James Roosevelt, the eldest son of the then Governor of New York and future President. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They married on June 5, 1930. James Roosevelt studied law and then went into insurance, until becoming an aide to FDR in Washington.



James and Betsy Roosevelt were divorced in 1940, and she got to know Jock Hay Whitney, an oil and tobacco heir. He was a sportsman who had set up his own venture capital company.

He was held as a prisoner of war, but escaped after 18 days. In 1957 Whitney became Eisenhower's Ambassador to the Court of St James's, and the couple moved to London. Here Betsy Whitney renewed her acquaintance with the Royal Family, becoming quite close to the new Queen. The Whitneys bought a large house near Ascot. Among their several houses in America was a 438-acre

estate on Long Island, Greentree. When one of her grandchildren was shown around the White House, she is said to have declared it "nice, but hardly on a par with Greentree".

During the 1950s the Whitneys founded and endowed the North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, helping to develop one of America's largest healthcare systems.

Jock Whitney died in 1982, leaving, among other things, a collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings once valued at \$200 million. Then, in the auction explosion of the late 1980s, the family overcame their sentimental attachments and cashed in some assets. Whitney's sister, Joan Whitney Payson, sold Van Gogh's *Irises* in 1987 for \$50 million (though the purchaser, Alan Bond, turned out not to have the money).

Two years later Whitney's niece, Linda de Roulet, sold Picasso's *Au Lapin Agile* for \$40 million. Then, at Sotheby's in 1990, Betsy Whitney sold *Au Moulin de la Galette* (1876), which her husband had bought in 1929 for \$165,000, and which was considered the finest Renoir in private hands. At \$78 million, it went to Japan, becoming the second most expensive painting ever sold at auction.

Betsy Whitney also gave pictures to public galleries, including Toulouse-Lautrec's *Marcell Lender Dancing the Bolero in Chippic* and eight other paintings to the National Gallery of Art. The Museum of Modern Art received paintings by Utrillo, Picasso and Seurat. In all, she gave 20 pictures — including works by Degas, Gauguin, Douanier Rousseau, and Whistler — to five galleries.

At Yale she supported not only the art gallery but the medical school, which received massive financial support. Betsy Whitney was on the board of the Whitney Museum of Modern Art and the John Hay Whitney Foundation. Her wealth was estimated in 1990 at \$700 million.

She is survived by two daughters from her first marriage.

VISCOUNT VILLIERS



Viscount Villiers, musician, died of a heart attack on March 19 aged 49. He was born on August 29, 1948.

A VIBRANT character with a varied career in finance, the Viscount Villiers was also a professional musician.

George Henry Child Villiers was born on Jersey, the eldest son of the 9th Earl and the Countess of Jersey. He was educated at Eton and Millfield, and he took up a short-service commission in the Royal Hussars, after which he joined Williams' and Glyn's Bank (which had recently absorbed the family bank Child and Co) as a trainee foreign exchange dealer.

Returning to his native Jersey, Villiers joined M L Duxford (Jersey), a commodity broking house. Following Duxford's closure, he and a partner created European Commodities, servicing Jersey-based clients. Europlan was subsequently sold to Rouse Woodstock, the commodity broking division of the French bank Credit Lyonnais, after which he formed his own firm called Villiers Trading.

But for all the lure of the financial markets, music was the abiding fascination of Villiers's life. He first studied the piano-acordion at the age of four, progressing through other instruments to his great love, the guitar, at 13. He studied with John Mills and Julian Byrantine, and took part in a masterclass with John Duarte. Over many years he enjoyed both writing and performing, and in 1986 he left Jersey to pursue a professional music career. He based himself in Devon, working as a disc jockey for the local radio station, Devon Air, and created his own group for performing and recording, all the while continuing to write.

His music had many varied influences including blues, jazz and calypso, but it was also highly personal. People who touched his life and places that he loved recur as themes in his compositions, and the joy they gave him along with his love of life shines through clearly in his work. As a soloist he had numerous appearances on television and radio and performed at a gala recital in honour of the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 80th birthday. His solo album *George Villiers Plays Guitar* was released in November

1988. He also composed the music for *Steps in Time*, an aid to teaching dance and movement, and edited *Classic Duets for the Guitar*. His group, the George Villiers Express, performed at many venues all over Britain, including the Purcell Room in London. They recorded three albums: *Magical Dance* (1988), *Dawn* (1989) and *No Dog Required* (1995), all produced by Villiers himself. He was also engaged in writing music for films, television and radio.

For some years Villiers provided solace to others through his work with the Samaritans. He thoroughly enjoyed this challenge, and it formed a natural extension of his role with his family and friends as a solid shoulder to cry on. An accomplished sailor, he approached life in much the same way as a trip to sea, always an adventure over the next wave.

George Villiers was married three times, first to Verma Scott in 1969, then to Sacha Valtay in 1974 and thirdly to Stephanie Penman in 1992. He leaves his widow, a daughter from his first marriage, a son (William, the new Viscount) and two daughters from his second marriage, and a son from his third.

ALAN BOLD

Alan Bold, Scottish poet and critic, died in hospital in Kirkcaldy on March 19 aged 54. He was born in Edinburgh on April 20, 1943.

ALTHOUGH he liked to think of himself primarily as a poet, Alan Bold would generally be regarded as having made his principal contribution to literary output in and outside Scotland through such works as his biography of Hugh MacDiarmid and his *Penguin Book of Socialist Verse*. But he had been many things in his life: jazz player, lecturer, socialist, literary journalist, Elvis Presley fan, painter, sparring partner, composer of songs, novelist and spectacularly failed candidate for the professorship of poetry at Oxford.

Much as his mentor Hugh MacDiarmid had done before him, Bold was determined from the outset to turn the contents of his mind into art whenever he could. This approach made him prolific, perhaps more so than was good for the quality of his output at every stage. Thus his poetry, with which he began his literary career, tended, after a promising start, to become messy and diffuse when not simply dull.

Like MacDiarmid, too, Bold could be a difficult man, given to lecturing rather than talking to interlocutors. But of the dedication to Scottish litera-

ture which gave rise to this intensity there could never be any doubt, and he rendered his country's literary life sterling service.

Alan Norman Bold was born in Edinburgh, where he was educated at Broughton Secondary School, alma mater of Hugh MacDiarmid and Fred Urmahart. At one point he dropped out of school, but with patient wisdom the headmaster Robert Walker allowed him to return when he had tired of the world of manual labour, in which he briefly immersed himself as a protest against formal education. (He had been brought up in impecunious circumstances, not made any easier when his father committed suicide.)

From Broughton he got a place at Edinburgh University, where he published an avant-garde magazine and saw into print his first verse collection, *Society Inebrious*, in 1965. This was well reviewed and was quickly followed by *The Voyage* (1966), *To Find the New* (1967) and *A Perpetual Motion Machine* (1969). Bold was then chosen to share *Penguin Poets 15* with E. K. Braithwaite and Edwin Morgan.

Ironically, the reviewers had already begun to rein in the rhapsodic terms in which he had greeted his early work, and to find something heavy-handed about his verse. He did not allow himself to be discouraged, and volume suc-



ceeded volume of verse in relentless succession (there was even one called *Scotland*). Yes, *World Cup Football Poems* when the team reached the 1978 World Cup finals; but increasingly Bold turned to other literary labours.

In 1968 he announced his candidature for the Oxford poetry professorship. In a field that included Edin Starkie, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Jorge Borges and Caradog Pritch-

ard, Bold came a resounding last — securing not a single vote of the 1,036 cast in a contest which was won by Roy Fuller, with 385 votes.

In the 1970s Bold began to supplement his poetic output with a series of critical, biographical and historical studies. Many of these were on a small scale, for the Pitkin Pictorials series. His *Penguin Book of Socialist Verse* (1970) was a much more influential

publication, international in its sweep and including verse from men as different as Blok, Neruda, Mao Zedong and Adam Mitchell.

But the most important of his contributions to literary scholarship are the works resulting from his association with MacDiarmid. They had been friends since 1962, with MacDiarmid admiring Bold's poetry, political radicalism and sense of literary mission. *The Letters of Hugh MacDiarmid* (1984) revealed the man in the round: vain certainly, often insufferable, but also possessed of a humanity which belied his professed dislike of the human race. *Hugh MacDiarmid: The Terrible Crystal* (1986) was a critical study, and Bold's biography, *MacDiarmid*, was regarded as definitive when it appeared in 1988. Although he was a close friend of MacDiarmid, Bold's assessment never lapsed into hagiography. *MacDiarmid* won the McVitie's Scottish Writer of the Year award in 1989.

One of Bold's last literary critical works was *A Burns Companion* (1990), and this was followed by his only novel, *East is West* in 1991. Besides writing, Bold had other strings to his bow: he painted, and some of his work is to be found in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. He was also a prolific literary journalist, contributing to a number of papers, notably *The Herald* in Glasgow, for which he wrote a weekly column.

In his younger days he had been no mean boxer, once sparring with Ken Buchanan, who resigned as world lightweight champion from 1970 to 1972. For many years his natural habitat was one of a number of Edinburgh pubs which were not frequented by mainstream literati. But in the mid-1970s he moved out of the city with his family and settled across the Forth in rural life — though this did not prevent visits to his old haunts.

He is survived by his wife Alice, whom he married in 1963, and by a daughter.

AUDREY WOOD

Audrey Wood, General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, 1952-70, died on March 21, aged 89. She was born on August 19, 1908.



UNDER the leadership of Audrey Wood, who was dedicated to ensuring recognition for midwives as members of the health team, the Royal College of Midwives was instrumental in breaking down the barriers between domiciliary and hospital midwifery services and achieving acceptance for a unified maternity service.

As the longest-serving general secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, she directed its move to new London headquarters at Mansfield Street in 1957, and during a period of major changes in the health service she played an important role in persuading the Ministry of Health to appoint a qualified and experienced midwife as Midwifery Officer. For the first time a midwifery voice would be heard during policy discussions of maternal and child health. A lecture she gave 45 years ago on the role of the midwife in public health is, as she said herself, "as relevant today as it was then".

Audrey Wood was born in Cambridge and brought up in a Quaker family with two brothers and one sister. Her father was the first professor of theology at Birmingham University. She went up to Westfield College in London in 1927 and graduated in history in 1930. She then trained as a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital

during the days when only the daughters of professional men were recruited. Audrey's mother advised her to give up her nursing, since she would "never make a nurse".

She trained as a midwife in the maternity department at Oxford's Radcliffe Hospital, and took a month off to deliver her sister's first child. She practised as a district sister and night sister in Oxford between 1937 and 1941, and gained a midwives teacher diploma in 1941.

During the next ten years she was to hold the post of assistant matron and midwifery tutor at the Heathfield Maternity Home in Birmingham and Belfast's Royal Maternity Hospital. In Belfast she became secretary of the Royal College of Midwives Northern Ireland Council, and after seven years she moved to London in 1951 to become tutor to the midwife teachers course at the Royal College.

As a graduate, she was a staunch supporter of education for midwives, and was instrumental in setting up the diploma in midwifery. The midwifery library of the Royal College, now the largest in the world, was greatly extended during her time as general secretary. She was determined that mothers should have a choice as to where their babies were born, and this conviction greatly influenced her professional leadership.

She became a member of the World Health Organisation's expert committee on maternity care in 1965, and on her retirement in 1970 she was appointed OBE. She was later made a vice-president of the college.

She was a highly respected and influential member of the Quaker community, and between 1971 and 1978 she was assistant secretary of the social responsibility council of the Society of Friends. She was not married.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA nice flat available... 0171 738 9972

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

0171 460 3000

JETLINE

01476 592095

FARESAVERS

01476 592095

Jetworld

01273 27777

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

0171 713 7770

FLIGHTSEEKERS

0171 663 4425

FLIGHTWISE

01476 560089

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

AIRLINK WORLDWIDE

0171 713 7770

DELTA

0161 272 8433

EX-SERVICEMEN'S MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

0161 272 8433

COURT & SOCIAL

0171 782 7347

GERMAN CHRISTIAN NAMES

HINTS TO PARENTS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN, April 2

The professional journal of the German officials whose duties correspond to those of the English registrar of births, marriages, and deaths contains some guidance as to the names under which German and foreign parents should be permitted to register their children.

ON THIS DAY

April 3, 1933

As the Nazi regime grew in power and confidence, pressure was exerted to make sure that children were given suitably German names when their births came to be registered.

In principle, it is laid down, German children are to be given German Christian names, and foreign children born in Germany foreign names, but a German child may be given a foreign Christian name subject to the parents' attaching satisfactory reasons therefor, and a foreign child one German name. What is regarded as desirable is to give German children names which are appropriate in a Reich built up on a basis of people and homeland, names through which the child is made conscious of his Germanism and which go to create pride in belonging to such a Fatherland. To give foreign children one German name will bring home to them their relationship to the German people and help them to treasure it and respect it when they go to their homeland or to other foreign countries.

Names which are not originally German but have come to be regarded as such are still permissible for German children. These include Margot, Helene, Beate, Arnette, Henriette, Alice, Charlotte, Dagmar, Dagmara. But whether for foreign or German children registrars are instructed to refuse to register names which are unseemly or offend against good morals. Thus the name Lanin is, it is to be gathered, to be barred absolutely.

INVISIBLE RAY FOR TRAFFIC

Hundreds of children cheered yesterday as the Minister of Transport inaugurated the new traffic signals, which have been installed in Morden, on the Sutton-by-pass road.

The equipment is the first of its kind in the world, and treats vehicles and pedestrians impartially. Immediately the pedestrian beam is interrupted the pedestrian establishes his claim to a safe passage across the road. If there is no traffic in the vicinity, the lights change in his favour, but, if vehicles are too near, he waits his turn, which occurs when there is a gap in the flow of traffic.

Mr. Hare-Belisha said he had accepted the invitation to inaugurate the system because the ceremony provided a means of keeping public attention fixed on the problems of road safety. Another reason was that the experiment had great possibilities... It was only a few years ago that light signals were first installed. In the early stages they were worked by hand, and at the next stage apparatus was introduced which caused them to change at regular intervals. Then it was found possible by means of a pad in the road to make the vehicle itself work the signals. But it had often been said that light signals were mainly for the benefit of vehicular traffic, and the pedestrian was still on the whole left to his own devices and the courtesy of drivers...

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ARTS
Billie Myers took ten years to be an overnight success
PAGES 35-38



MEDIA
Battle hots up for the infant foodies
PAGES 40-43



SPORT
Grand National meeting gets off to flying start
PAGES 46-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 3 1998

Dutch top list of suitors for Courtaulds

By CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

COURTAULDS, one of the big names in British manufacturing industry, could soon disappear into the arms of a foreign buyer.

The chemicals group is in talks with a potential bidder, which is widely thought to be Akzo Nobel, of The Netherlands. Other names in the frame include Sherwin Williams and PPG, the US paints manufacturers.

Shares in Courtaulds gained 17 per cent to 456p yesterday, valuing the group at £1.8 billion, as the company confirmed that it had received an approach that may or may not lead to an offer.

Yesterday's surge follows a sharp recovery in Courtaulds' stock since the troubled chemicals group revealed plans last February to demerge its coatings and sealants division and sell its polymers business.

The bid approach surprised the City and analysts were divided over whether Courtaulds would be able to fetch a bigger premium after yesterday's share price gain. Estimates of bid premiums to the current price ranged from nil to almost £1.

Michael Eastwood, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson thought the takeover price could reach 500p if a bidding war emerged. He said: "No coatings company of this quality has come up for sale in decades." Others were sceptical, noting the group's problems in commodity fibre businesses and weak margins.

The bid approach will further excite the chemicals sector, which is undergoing a massive worldwide restructuring as former sprawling conglomerates seek to focus their operations and escape the weak margins of commodity businesses. The UK sector has already lost Allied Colloids to Ciba, of Switzerland, and a bid was mooted at Brunner Mond. ICI is refocusing its business away from commodities to paints and specialty chemicals but the UK group is not seen as a likely bidder for Courtaulds - ICI would have difficulty in justifying an investment in a commodity fibres business.

The jewel in Courtaulds' crown is the coatings business, which boasts profits of £81 million and makes industrial paints. It is the market leader in anti-fouling coatings for ships and coatings and sealants for aircraft. Akzo Nobel, with a worth of £8.5 billion, is known to be interested in expanding its paints business and may also find a home for Courtaulds' fibres business.

Courtaulds is a leading producer of viscose and acrylic, both fibres suffering from weak markets and oversup-

Bae shake-up boosts Evans

By ADAM JONES



Sir Richard Evans, left, who will effectively be executive chairman, with Richard Laphorne

A SURPRISE boardroom shake-up at British Aerospace has strengthened the hand of Sir Richard Evans and left Richard Laphorne, tipped as his possible successor as chief executive, with a reduced role.

Bae said yesterday that Bob Bauman, non-executive chairman since 1994, will not stand for re-election at the annual meeting on April 29. He will be succeeded by Sir Richard, in what will effectively be the role of executive chairman. John Weston, current head of the defence arm, will have the title of chief executive but Mike Turner, head of civil aircraft, will still report directly to Sir Richard.

Mr Laphorne, currently finance director, becomes executive vice-chairman, responsible for strategy and planning, with immediate effect. Bae said the role is consistent with Richard's desire to reduce his work commitments while maintaining a key role in the future development of the company.

The succession at Bae was always going to be complex, with three big hitters under Sir Richard. Bae denied that Mr Laphorne, who will be succeeded as finance director by George Rose, had been sidelined.

Danny Bevan, an analyst with Credit Lyonnais, said: "Richard Laphorne has been a key player in the revival of Bae, a lot of which was linked to the financial restructuring. The investment community very much looked to him for guidance." Another analyst said: "It's a complete fudge. It's a critical juncture in the company's development and we need very clear positions of command and control."

One Bae board member said non-executive directors would still have the strength to oust Sir Richard if problems arose.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	6062.8 (+36.2)
Yield	2.70%
FTSE All share	3252.58 (+13.65)
Nikkei	15702.90 (-538.78)
Dow Jones	8914.00 (+46.59)
S&P Composite	1112.53 (+4.38)
LIB RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	103.25 (103.25)
Yield	5.88% (5.88%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	7.75 (7.75)
Libra overnight	108.75 (108.75)
3-mth bill	108.75 (108.75)
FOREIGN EXCHANGE	
New York	1.6577 (1.6710)
London	1.6687 (1.6755)
DM	3.0853 (3.0981)
FF	16.5250 (16.5800)
SFr	2.5491 (2.5537)
Yen	222.58 (223.17)
£ Index	106.5 (106.5)
US \$ & DOLLAR	
London	1.8512 (1.8540)
DM	6.2820 (6.2125)
SFr	1.5315 (1.5348)
Yen	133.45 (133.63)
£ Index	110.5 (110.6)
Tokyo close Yen	133.83
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$14.40 (\$14.30)
WTI	\$14.20
London close	\$92.65 (\$91.05)

BT poised to bring windfalls at Demon

By JASON NISSE AND RAYMOND SNODDY

BT is set to buy Demon Internet, one of the UK's leading Internet access providers, in a deal valuing it at £60 million.

Cliff Stanford, a former accountant who launched Demon from the boiler room of a cinema at Southend, Essex, is expected to make about £30 million. There will also be windfalls for Demon's 520 staff, who have been given share options in it.

BT refused to comment on speculation that it is about to do a deal, but computer industry sources said that it has agreed terms with Mr Stanford, who now lives in Belgium.

Demon, which cost just £30,000 to set up in 1992, has more than 175,000 customers and has expanded into The Netherlands, and it plans to move into most of western Europe. It made a loss of £2.9 million last year despite turnover doubling to £18 million.

The operation recently struck a £1.5 million deal to sponsor Fulham, the football club owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

Computer analysts have been concerned that Demon's expansion has overstretched its resources and that it needed a cash injection. However, this was recently denied by David Furness, Demon's marketing director.

Mr Stanford, who at 10 was helping his mother to keep the books of a betting shop, has been dubbed a "Lordsman" character. He recently said that he was "motivated by earning as much money as possible".

United Utilities dismisses the £3m consultant

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNITED UTILITIES has dismissed the consultant who was paid £3 million last year in a controversial deal that reignited the dispute over "fat-cat" pay.

Derek Lewis, whose company Heracles was given the lucrative deal to run the facilities management subsidiary of United, has been paid off to terminate his five-year contract.

United is likely to have to pay substantial compensation to cut short Mr Lewis's contract with Vertex Data Services. An opt-out clause enabling either party to walk away does not come into effect until next year.

Mr Lewis's pay package shocked industry watchers who were already accustomed to big pay deals at the company that became synonymous with the fat-cat controversy. The contract is thought to have been discovered only after the dismissal last year of Brian Staples, the chief executive. Sir Desmond Picher, who stepped down from the chairmanship of United this week after investor pressure, is believed to have been incensed by the deal.

Mr Lewis and Heracles were contracted to set up and lead Vertex, which runs United's customer billing operations, when it was spun out of the United operation two years ago. It was intended that Vertex would bring in new business but it has so far only won one new contract to provide facilities management for a health service trust. Much of the £3 million package was performance-related. A planned link-up between Vertex and Northern Ireland Electricity's facilities management division also failed.

Severance paid to Mr Lewis will add to bumper pay-off charges incurred by the company over the last year. United will soon be forced to reveal the pay-off made to Sir Desmond. It is thought his settlement could exceed £1 million. Mr Staples is also claiming more than £1 million for loss of office.

Yesterday Derek Green, chief executive, said: "The rationale which saw the creation of Vertex remains."

Sales cheer rate hopes

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street sales growth fell to its lowest levels in over two years last month raising hopes in the City that interest rates will not rise next week while helping the pound to ease from its recent highs.

The March net balance of retailers reporting an annual increase in sales fell to its lowest level since September 1995, according to the Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey.

Retailers' expectations for April are also the least positive since the beginning of 1996.

Separate earnings data to be published today will show that wage pressures may be easing. Both the Industrial Relations Service and Incomes Data Service monthly pay surveys suggest average wage settlements are either flat or declining slightly. The Bank of England has consistently warned that a further acceleration in wage inflation would be inconsistent with meeting the inflation target.

The markets seized on the sales data as evidence that the Monetary Policy Committee will resist making a further rate rise when it meets next week. The pound slipped over a pennig to close at DM3.0859, while sterling's trade weighted index closed down 0.4 at 108.5.

The stock market, however, climbed to a record closing high for the second consecutive day. The FTSE 100 closed up 35.2 at 6062.8.

Eddie George yesterday told the Treasury Select Committee that the dispute over who will become the head of the European Central Bank was partly to blame for the recent strength of the pound. The Governor of the Bank of England said it was a "desperate shame" that no decision had yet been taken.

Sony's head voices fears for Japan

FROM ROBERT WEYMANT IN TOKYO

THE Japanese economy is on the brink of collapse and may be entering a long spiral of deflation, the chairman of Sony Corporation, the electronics giant, said yesterday.

Norio Ohga said: "The Japanese economy is on the verge of collapsing. There is a general feeling of pessimism throughout the country."

Mr Ohga said the economy faces its most difficult situation ever and that there could be a long spiral of deflation, with damaging effects on the world economy. His remarks, unusually frank for a Japanese business leader, reflected the deepening gloom and frustration at the Government's failure to reverse the economy's decline.

Tokyo's depressed stock market sank below the critical 16,000 level yesterday. In the biggest fall of the year, the Nikkei index of 225 shares sank 538.76 points, or 3.32 per cent, to close at 15,702.90.

Lloyd's plans to scrap ruling council

By JON ASHWORTH



Kent led committee

THE Lloyd's insurance market is set to scrap its ruling council and replace it with a ple-style board of directors, under a series of far-reaching reforms unveiled yesterday.

The reforms, subject to market consultation, envisage replacing the council, the Lloyd's market board, and the Lloyd's regulatory board with a single governing body.

It is likely to have four executives, including a chief executive and finance director, supported by three market nominees, three capital providers, and four independent directors. A chairman and deputy chairman would be elected from the membership of the board.

A committee led by Pen Kent, the former director of the Bank of England, has been reviewing the structure of the Lloyd's council. Plans have been put in train by the decision to move regulation of Lloyd's to the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The Kent report says: "The present tripartite structure is over-complicated with considerable duplication and overlap both of content and membership. This is in itself a deterrent to standing for election to office, and incidentally adds to the cost base of Lloyd's."

Introducing the new format could take at least four years. The basis for voting among working members should revert to a one member, one vote system, dropping the recent practice of weighting the vote in this constituency by the capacity of each individual.

Max Taylor, chairman, said the report was "very helpful", adding: "I welcome its emphasis on the duty of all council members to work for the common good of the society and all its members."

Other airlines is as... as is

Business Class available on all British Midland jet services. For more information, call 0345 554554 or contact your local travel agent. To ensure quality service, calls to British Midland are recorded.

00 700 731

British Midland
The airline for Europe

Deutsche Bank slides 13% as costs top £2bn

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

COSTS at the investment banking arm of Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest financial institution, leapt by more than 40 per cent last year to DM46.7 billion (£2.2 billion). The sharp rise in expenses contributed to a 13 per cent fall in earnings to DM777 million at the investment bank, which centres on Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in London.

Deutsche Bank declined to comment on the jump in costs. However, it confirmed that the fourth quarter of last year had been difficult for because of the financial turmoil in South-East Asia.

Asian turbulence forced Deutsche Bank to write off DM1.4 billion, taking total group provisions to DM2.2 billion, compared to DM715 million. As a result, group pre-tax profits more than halved, to DM2.0 billion.

Operating profit declined 27 per cent to DM4.2 billion. Pre-

tax return on equity slumped to 6.4 per cent from 17.1 per cent in 1996. The bank also reiterated that it had set aside DM2.5 billion for a major restructuring, which by 2001 will reduce the worldwide workforce by 8,400.

Rolf Breuer, chief executive, said: "Even ignoring special developments — such as the financial crisis in Asia — determined efforts must be made if Deutsche Bank is to regain its traditional strength, as reflected, for example, in a return on equity of 25 per cent in 1993."

Herr Breuer signalled an interest in acquiring a stake in Credit Lyonnais once the French bank is privatised. However, he was not interested in Banque Nationale de Paris. "Deutsche Bank would never do a hostile takeover in France because we would need the support of local management," he explained.

Deutsche said it was confident that by 2001 it could once again achieve a 25 per cent return on equity. It also hopes to reduce its cost-income ratio to 65 per cent from its current level of 75.8 per cent.

ING, the Dutch financial group that rescued Barings, revealed that its Asian banking operation incurred losses of 265 million guilders (£76 million) last year, against a profit of Dfl106 million in 1996.

However, the Asian losses were more than offset by gains elsewhere in the banking division, where total pre-tax profits increased 31.6 per cent to Dfl2.5 billion.

Net profits for the ING Group rose 23.6 per cent to Dfl4.1 billion. It made a provision of Dfl50 million for future expenditure, consisting mainly of the costs of coping with the millennium bug and European Monetary Union.

Goldman Sachs spreads out

By CARL MORTISHED

GOLDMAN SACHS, the American investment bank, is equipping itself for further expansion in London by taking a lease on the former *Daily Express* offices in Fleet Street and space at another building near St Paul's Cathedral.

The investment bank will gain almost 400,000 sq ft by taking a 25-year lease on the listed Art Deco Express building at 120 Fleet Street. Goldman, already occupies about 370,000 sq ft of offices at 133 Fleet Street but a spokesman for the bank said it was not enough for an increase in staff to 2,600.

Goldman is paying £40 per sq ft to the landlord, Fleet Street Partnership, part of the Itochu Corporation of Japan, which is redeveloping the property for occupation in 2001. In the short term, Goldman is taking a lease at 1 Carter Lane, London at a rent of £47 per sq ft.

A rival of Goldman, Merrill Lynch, has secured planning permission from the Corporation of London to build an 830,000 sq ft headquarters on the site of the former Post Office building at New Gate Street and Giltspur Street.



Terry Garthwaite, left, Senior Engineering's finance director, and Andrew Parrish

Aerospace boosts Senior

By KATHY LIPARI

SENIOR ENGINEERING lifted profits from continuing operations 17 per cent, to £42 million, in 1997, helped by the strength of its aerospace business. Turnover on continuing operations increased 5 per cent to £473.7 million.

The City responded favourably to Senior's results yesterday, driving its shares up 18p,

or 9.8 per cent, to 202p. Underlying earnings per share were 10.48p, against 7.64p in 1996. The total dividend rises to 4.24p, from 3.52p, with a 2.64p final.

Andrew Parrish, chief executive, said: "Acquisitions will be a significant part of Senior Engineering's growth over the next three years." Mr

Parrish said that he was confident that operating margins would grow from 8.9 per cent last year to at least 10 per cent this year.

Analysts have upgraded their forecasts for 1998. ABN Amro Hoare Govett now expects pre-tax profits of £49.5 million, compared with previous estimates of £46.5 million.

Ban on Barings director

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A SEVENTH director of Barings, the bank that collapsed in 1995 because of unauthorised trading by Nick Leeson in Singapore, has been disqualified by the Department of Trade and Industry.

James Bax, the bank's most senior man in the Asia Pacific region at the time of the £800 million derivatives trading scandal, was yesterday banned from acting as a company director for four years.

Mr Bax did not dispute an allegation by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, that he had failed to ensure that Leeson was not responsible for both the front office and the back office of Barings Futures (Singapore).

The DTI is considering disqualifying three more Barings directors, including Ron Baker, who is currently fighting in court over an unpaid £880,000 bonus. Mr Baker claims he is entitled to the money, in spite of the bank's collapse.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TURN YOUR BUSINESS AROUND.

THE SUNDAY TIMES ENTERPRISE NETWORK

www.enterprisenetwork.co.uk

The Sunday Times Enterprise Network. Designed to make your business go further. Every Sunday in the Business section.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

C&WC makes 1,500 more redundant

CABLE & WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, the largest cable group in the UK, said yesterday it was making 1,500 of its staff redundant to "improve operational effectiveness". The redundancies follow a detailed review of the company, created through a merger of Mercury Communications, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Nynex Communications, by Graham Wallace, its chief executive. The job losses are in addition to the expected 600 to 700 from a reduction in the number of CWC call centres from ten to three.

Details on the timing and location of the redundancies are still being worked out but they are expected to fall most heavily on "back-office" functions, although the job losses are likely to be spread throughout the company. The company is expected to make a provision of about £45 million to cover the redundancies but it is not yet clear what annualised savings will result.

Savings jobs at risk

ABOUT 4,000 jobs could be at risk under plans to put the administration of National Savings out to private tender. EDS and Siemens Business Services, two data processing companies, have been shortlisted for the ten-year contract. National Savings refused to disclose the value of the contract but a recent third party deal between the Inland Revenue and EDS was worth £1.6 billion. A National Savings spokeswoman said it hoped to transfer the 4,000 jobs to the third party company.

CLT in UK radio sale

CLT-UFA, the Luxembourg-based international media group, is seeking at least £65 million from the sale of its main UK radio interests. CLT, which is owned by Bertelsman, the German media group, is selling its 80 per cent stake in Atlantic 252, the long wave service which broadcasts from Ireland into the UK, a 62 per cent stake in Talk Radio UK, the national commercial speech station and Country 1035, its London country music station. Indicative bids are expected by the end of this month.

Ask Central profits leap

RAPID expansion helped Ask Central, the AIM-listed pizza and pasta restaurant operator, to lift 1997 pre-tax profits from £703,000 to £2.01 million from turnover more than doubled to £12.83 million. The group opened 13 restaurants during the year, taking its total to 30, and expects to have opened a further 15 by the end of 1998. Earnings per share, adjusted to reflect the bonus elements of last year's rights issue, reached 8.6p (4.2p). A final dividend of 0.67p, payable on July 3, makes a total of 1.0p (0.5p). *Tempus, page 30*

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.64	2.48	Malta	0.680	0.640
Austria Sch	22.57	21.01	Netherlands Gld	3.663	3.398
Belgium Fr	66.79	61.83	New Zealand \$	3.18	2.94
Canada \$	2.403	2.205	Norway Kr	13.38	12.44
Cyprus Cyp£	0.940	0.869	Portugal Esc	328.83	308.40
Denmark Kr	12.34	11.45	S Africa Rd	8.11	8.15
Finland Mk	9.58	8.17	Spain Ptas	203.11	202.02
France Fr	10.80	10.02	Sweden Kr	14.18	13.28
Germany Dm	3.25	3.00	Switzerland Fr	2.70	2.48
Greece Dr	950	851	Turkey Lira	4122.51	3927.0
Hong Kong \$	13.78	12.56	USA \$	1.775	1.652
Iceland	134	114			
Ireland P	1.28	1.19			
Israel Sh	6.42	5.77			
Italy Lit	3218	2978			
Japan Yen	237.76	220.23			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Melka

QUALITY MEN'S WEAR

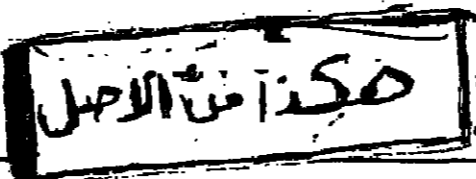
Melka - the leading name in men's casual clothing from fashion wear retailers throughout the UK

FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKISTS CALL

01279 721 520

E-mail: melka@mtowner.com www.mtowner.com

سكزنا في الأوس



Bae figures it right



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Sir Richard Evans knows British Aerospace inside out. He also knows his rivals, partners and potential partners in an aerospace industry that is embarking on a new round of consolidation. So who could be better qualified to lead Bae into the next century? Yet the decision to make Evans executive chairman, with some executives directly answerable to him, is bound to raise eyebrows amongst corporate governance pedants.

Any attempt to ring fence Evans's influence with the title of non-executive chairman would have been nominal only.

Whatever label was attached to Sir Richard Greenbury, he would be constitutionally incapable of standing back and allowing someone else to run Marks & Spencer while he was still involved. Sir Richard Sykes of Glaxo is in the same mould, and so is Dick Evans.

The boards of those companies would be wrong to try to water down the contribution to be made by these leaders. But they must ensure that there is a suitably tough board to act as a check should the leader ever lose the plot.

That may not be as easy as it sounds. Staff a board with even the most high powered executives and there remains the risk that they will be reluctant to challenge the man at the top, or even too preoccupied to do so. Crystallising the responsibility in

a single non-executive as the independent voice is, supposedly the solution and Bae is opting for this approach.

But has Sir Roger Hum, who has been allotted the task at Glaxo, been as effective as he might have been in focusing the attention of the Glaxo boss on looking after shareholder value by achieving a merger with SmithKline Beecham? Some might think not.

The ideal blueprint for good corporate governance will vary depending on the company and the characters involved. Executives will shudder and international lawyers' hearts leap at the thought of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development involving itself in the governance debate and moving towards a set of internationally applicable governance guidelines.

While the aims of promoting "fairness, transparency, accountability and responsibility" are laudable, they may well be interpreted somewhat differently across the organisation's 29 member countries. What constitutes transparency in Italy may be all too see-through in Japan.

But there is a voice of realism

penetrating the OECD's pointless efforts. Let us give thanks for Ira Millstein, who, despite being an American lawyer and chairman of the advisory group to the OECD's efforts to intervene on corporate governance, uttered the advice that, if a company was to perform well, its "best bet is to recognise shareholder value and have a board capable of independence. After that, we are saying: Go figure it out for yourself."

Just what Bae has done.

Ruin drench Technik as they say in IT

Vorsprung durch Technik turns out to be more than just an ad slogan after all. According to a survey of chief executives and information technology directors in North America and Northern Europe, Cerman Industry stands out from the rest in regarding IT as central to improving its compet-

itive edge. In Britain and North America, more than half still see spending as essentially a defensive measure to cut costs and keep up with the Sonys.

Considering the amounts being thrown at IT, that is pretty staggering. Last year, North American companies spent \$300 billion, not including the costs of the people using the systems. Even British business ran up IT bills of £40 billion.

Compass Analysis, the consultants who commissioned the survey, have found that IT is rising fast as a proportion of total business costs. In banking, it can be as much as 20 per cent and the business average is about 8 per cent. Yet chief executives surveyed by Professor Kit Grindley of the LSE could only measure the cost effectiveness of about a third of this spending in terms of its contribution to profits.

A quarter of the total was simply spent on upgrades being hawked by IT suppliers such as

Microsoft, much of it on a me-too basis. IT used to be a means of cutting labour. It is still often a fashion item like the executive car. And at the moment, defensive IT spending has been boosted to cope with the millennium bug in old software.

Attitudes are improving. The key seems to have been the arrival of IT on the chief executive's desk, with e-mail, the Internet and up-to-date financial analysis. Perhaps that is why the bottom line contribution, like that of boardroom pay, is thought immeasurable.

Once millennium spending is over, even the British and Americans see IT chiefly as making a positive contribution to future development, as all those endless guides to competitiveness insist they must. In some industries, such as banking and retailing, most new services products stem from IT development.

Already, the top companies surveyed reckon that IT develop-

ments influence two-fifths of their strategic moves. By the start of the next century, they expect it to be more than half. If chief executives remain so IT illiterate and so casual about the results of spending, that should guarantee a rising tide of ever more costly fiascos as suppliers fail to meet specifications and exciting new services fail to work.

A Monument to reducing costs

While the Monopolies and Mergers Commission pursues its misguided investigation into the underwriting of rights issues, there comes further evidence that canny customers do not need MMC help to avoid paying unduly for raising capital.

We shall soon see details of just how Monument Oil & Gas has side-stepped the usually uniform underwriting fees that so exercised the OFT's John Bridgeman and the American banks, whose dubious motive is to promote their own highly lucrative book-building schemes.

Monument handed back surplus cash to shareholders a couple of years ago, believing they could

do more with it than the company. But now there are interesting prospects to be bought, and Monument wants about £100 million. Advised by Schroders, who have already demonstrated a novel way with reducing underwriting costs, Monument has lined up its major shareholders to take up their rights and guarantee to tender for the sub-underwriting beyond their entitlement. The theory is that their enthusiasm for the stock should ensure that their tenders come in low, and the capital therefore comes cheap. Having towards half the company owned by just four shareholders — Electroflora, the Pru, Fidelity, and Mercury Asset Management — simplifies things, but then many companies have half their shares held by a handful of investors. If they are enthused by the spending plans, they should want to keep down the cost of funding them.

Flawed policy

LLOYD'S, having shed most of its whingeing underwriting names, seems set to demutualise its power structure, axing its ruling council and moving to a plc-style board. Pen Kent, the Bank of England stalwart whose report advocates this modernising reform, will doubtless have the pioneering example of the London Stock Exchange in mind. The LSE certainly speeded up its decisions but has the quality of decision making improved?

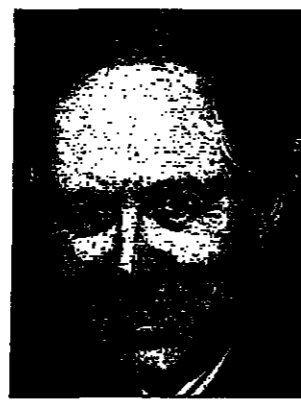
ICI continues shake-up with Crosfield disposal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ICI took another step in its radical transformation yesterday with the sale of Crosfield, a speciality chemicals business that came with the company's bulk purchase of Unilever's speciality chemicals operations.

Crosfield, which started life more than 180 years ago making soap ingredients, has been sold to America's WR Grace & Co for \$455 million (£272 million).

ICI's decision to dispose of Crosfield reflects the company's reluctance to fund the investment that is required to modernise the business. Crosfield, which has operations in Europe, the Americas, South Africa and Asia, last year had sales of £161 million and an operating profit of £12



Miller-Smith: new strategy

million. Its main activities remain in detergents.

The deal, which will be completed within the next three months, will be immediately earnings enhancing for ICI. The company said that there would be no gain or loss on the sale.

ICI shares ended unchanged at £11.25 yesterday. One analyst said the City was growing concerned that ICI was having difficulty selling some of its large industrial businesses in a market that is thought to have few buyers. There are also fears over the impact of sterling. ICI is highly exposed to currency fluctuations and is expected to be suffering from the continued strength of the pound.

Businesses sold by ICI and

News Corp settles tax bill in Israel

THE News Corporation, parent company of The Times, has reached a settlement with Israeli tax authorities over one of its subsidiaries, NDS Technologies Israel (Raymond Snoddy writes).

NDSTI, the Israeli-based subsidiary of News Corp's News Digital Systems (NDS), was alleged to owe as much as US\$150 million (£89 million) in unpaid tax. A settlement was signed yesterday under which a \$3 million payment will be made for 1989-1992.

This was a period, News Corp said, when NDS's activities in Israel were controlled by "a former officer who has since been sued by News Corporation for various improprieties". It said no one now at NDS or NDSTI had dealt with tax matters in 1989-92.

Abbey National reviews future of its Spanish unit

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABBNEY NATIONAL is mulling over the future of its loss-making Spanish business in a strategic review of its continental operations.

The bank has appointed Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank, to study all options for Abbey National Bank SA, ranging from sale to expansion. The Spanish unit, based in Madrid and having 24 branches, employs 226 staff and has an equity value of 30 billion pesetas (£120 million). Last year, it made a loss of 279 million pesetas.

Abbey National is thought to have invested up to £100 million in the business, which provides a full range of financial services, including mortgages and current accounts.

Abbey's French and Italian

New look at Hewden Stuart

HEWDEN STUART, the construction group, yesterday revealed that it is streamlining its operations to concentrate on hiring plant and equipment. It will sell the merchandising, quarrying and contracting businesses (Kathy Lipari writes).

Sandy Findlay, the chairman, said the merchandising division will be sold to managers for £11 million, while the other two concerns were expected to fetch £5 million.

Pre-tax profits rose 31 per cent to £38.6 million in the year to January 31, turnover at Tool Hire up 19 per cent to £62.5 million. Total turnover rose 7 per cent to £296.3 million and earnings were 10.01p (7.53p) a share. A final dividend of 2.6p makes a total 3.6p (3.2p).

Brands Hatch on route to new acquisitions

BY KATHY LIPARI

BRANDS Hatch Leisure, the leisure venue operator, is on the acquisition trail, the company announced yesterday after delivering a record pre-tax profit for 1997.

Nicola Foulston, chief executive, and businesswoman of the year last year, said pre-tax profits rose 68 per cent to £3.55 million on turnover that increased 12.3 per cent to £16.01 million.

She said the company was keen to develop its motor sport leisure activities through acquisitions. "In an ideal world we would like to do a couple of deals this year, but we will wait to see what materialises," she said. "I am very confident that 1998 is going to be another strong year."

The company said the introduction of new activities and expansion of facilities, such as the new rally school at Oulton Park, had buoyed earnings during 1997 and would continue to do so this year.

Brands Hatch planned to begin new activities such as defensive driver training and karting from its new paddock facilities at Oulton Park and Brands Hatch.

Earnings per share increased 11 per cent to 11.1p. There is a final dividend of 3.7p, against 3.5p in 1996. The shares rose 2½p to 157½p.



Keen to develop: Nicola Foulston, chief executive

Argos finds Birch ready to support bid defence

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

ARGOS, the retailer trying to fight off a £1.6 billion bid by Great Universal Stores (GUS), will today announce that its chairman, Sir Richard Lloyd, has agreed to stand down and be replaced by Peter Birch, the recently retired chief executive of Abbey National.

The announcement will accompany the package of financial measures, including the return of at least £350 million in cash to shareholders, that Argos will unveil today as its final defence against the GUS bid. Argos hopes that Mr Birch's strong reputation for creating shareholder value will further bolster its defence.

Argos shares rose a further 3p to 648p, valuing the business at more than £1.85 billion.

Sir Richard, 71, is set to be replaced by Mr Birch, 60, at Argos's next annual meeting. The meeting, if Argos were to avoid takeover, would be held soon after the end of the bid.

Sir Richard is paid about £80,000 and Mr Birch would be paid about the same amount. Mr Birch was recently appointed chairman of Trinity International, the regional newspaper group. He is also a non-executive director of Dalgety and Land Securities.

More windfalls in pipeline for UK policyholders

Canada Life plans flotation

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100,000 policyholders in the UK will receive an average windfall bonus of £2,200 each after Canada Life, the mutual life insurer based in Toronto, announced flotation plans.

Canada Life is one of four large mutual insurers in Canada which have been considering demutualisation. The announcement at yesterday's annual meeting makes it more likely that Manulife and Mutual Life will press on with their plans. Sun Life of Canada has already announced it intends to float in 1999 and

distribute £1,000 each to 250,000 UK policyholders.

Canada Life's core business is life and protection, and it said it was looking for acquisitions in the UK as well as Ireland, the US and Canada which would expand its portfolio. Chris Whitton, a director of Canada Life, said: "Our strategy is one of bold growth, and demutualisation allows us greater and easier access to capital. We are looking to increase our business in handling group pensions but we will look at anything which we believe represents good value."


Canada Life declined to say what the market capitalisation of the new company

would be. It is distributing a total windfall of £226 billion. Flotation is likely to be completed by the end of next year.

In the UK, where Canada Life UK has 840,000 policies held by around 750,000 policyholders, only 85,000 to 100,000 hold the with-profits policies which mean they qualify for a windfall bonus.

Canada Life has already been on the acquisition trail, having bought eight companies around the world since 1982. In 1991 it bought Abbey Life in Ireland, and in 1995 it bought Manulife's UK operations and Windsor Life's direct sales force. Last September it bought Albany Life from MetLife.

IN VENTURE CAPITAL WHAT YOU NEED IS THE RIGHT INVESTOR



Joe McGrane
Managing Director RBDC

Where private equity is involved, many institutions like to present themselves as business partners. At Royal Bank Development Capital we see ourselves first and foremost as investors, supportive when it's necessary, invisible when it's not. We won't try to run your business and we'll walk away when the time is right...for you. So if your equity requirement is in the millions, get in touch.

Call us now on 0300 84 33 33

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Royal Bank Development Capital Limited, Registered Office: 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE. Registered in Scotland No. 139616. A Royal Bank of Scotland Company.

سكوت من الاجل

ECONOMIC

ANTHONY DARRIS

Land of the rising sun on brink of its darkest hour

The Japanese system, long a source of foreign envy, is paralysed by fear

The Japanese economy is depressed. Any visitor to Tokyo can see it within minutes: bars and restaurants on the Ginza, home of corporate hospitality, have closed by the hundreds; cut-price sales are the rule in the shops, even in the Imperial Hotel's luxury boutiques.

Bargain offers have succeeded in checking the fall in real retail sales to less than 4 per cent, but durables have fared much worse: car sales were down 20 per cent year-on-year in March and housing starts are also down by about a fifth. The near markets of South-East Asia, which have taken about half of Japanese exports, have succumbed to their local crisis. Only exports to the US and Europe are flourishing.

However, on March 30 the Government announced a reflation package of ¥16 trillion (£7.2 billion) — 3 per cent of GDP. This was woefully short of detail — a target rather than a programme — but it was 60 per cent bigger than had been forecast. The aim was not simply to restore confidence generally, but more specifically to honour a promise by the ruling LDP and drive the Nikkei equity index back to the 18,000 level at which it stood at March 31, 1997, the end of the previous financial year.

Already it is clear that this initiative has failed. The index started falling even on March 31. The result, since Japanese companies include portfolio gains and losses in their profits, has been to trigger a series of profit warnings, starting with Nissan, the carmaker, and Marubeni, a vast trading concern. The next day debt-ridden Daiichi, a middle-sized non-bank lender, folded as its bank credit lines were cut.

By yesterday the Nikkei had fallen by some 1,000 points — equivalent to about 380 points in London — since the reflation announcement. It is no longer clear that even "price-keeping", the Japanese euphemism for official market-rigging, can arrest the fall. The word "recession" begins to look like another euphemism.

One domestic industry is booming, though. Sales of home safes have tripled. This is perhaps the most depressing symptom of all, for the reason is not a crime wave, but financial fear. Many Japanese citizens no longer trust the commercial banks, or even the official post office savings banks. They are simply hoarding banknotes. They have lost faith in the institutions of what was until now, the most disciplined and conformist of leading countries. This is a more telling index of national crisis than a weak currency or a depressed stock market; but



Despairing traders saw the Nikkei plummet after the reflation announcement

given the provocation, it is an understated reaction.

Imagine our own feelings if British shares had lost two thirds of their value; if negative equity had gone on growing for a decade, until some homeowners had debts four times the value of their property. Then imagine that the economy had been mainly in recession for a decade, that the banks had admitted to bad debts of more than £200 billion.

Now imagine that two large banks had collapsed, and many others were under suspicion, and finally, after the arrest of several senior City figures, the Fraud Squad had raided the SIB, the Treasury and the Bank of England. The raiders seized records and diaries and forced the resignation of the Chancellor, the Deputy Finance Minister, Japan Surpasses Capitalism. Now Bara is rumoured to be the next victim of the purge, his claims for the system being called into question.

Why, in the first place, reflate at all? The political reason is clear: elections are to be held for the upper house in July and a spending package can provide sops to the electorate in every shaky constituency. The Americans call this pork-barrel

banking system, have long been known and discounted. What is now in question is the whole Japanese system of one-party politics and managed capitalism. It has long been a commentators' truism that anything approaching meltdown was impossible because "they" would not allow it. But are "they" still in control?

The Japanese system has long been a source of national pride and foreign envy — efficient yet humane, relatively egalitarian and built on unquestioned loyalty.

Only two years ago, despite the recession, its merits were restated in a book by Sukaki Bara, the Deputy Finance Minister, *Japan Surpasses Capitalism*. Now Bara is rumoured to be the next victim of the purge, his claims for the system being called into question.

Why, in the first place, reflate at all? The political reason is clear: elections are to be held for the upper house in July and a spending package can provide sops to the electorate in every shaky constituency. The Americans call this pork-barrel

politics and manage to live with it, and in a Keynes-type depression, pork-barrel spending would be better than none.

Unfortunately, this is not a Keynesian recession, caused by a shortage of money. People are still rich and the money supply is growing strongly. It is caused by fear. As citizens have lost faith not only in their banks but in their pension expectations and employment prospects, spending is depressed by a huge rise in saving.

When the US faced a similar confidence crisis in the mid-80s after all the Texas banks collapsed, they addressed it by bankrupting all the suspect banks and transferring their deposits to sound ones in other states. This restored calm. Japan has talked of doing the same, but failed to do it. Instead, it has offered cheap loans under the Fiscal Investment and Loans Programme (FILP) to all banks, sound and unsound. The FILP is financed largely by post office savings. Instead of restoring confidence in the banks, the loans have undermined confidence in the post office scheme, now stuffed with bad loans.

These mistakes are not the fault of weak analysis, but of

the system itself. The insistence on consensus, often seen as a strength, means in practice that any minister can veto anything that threatens departmental interests. Radical policy is hard to achieve, and so is execution, even of agreed policy. The anti-corruption drive means officials are afraid to do anything that favours one bank or company over another, for fear of attracting a raid.

Some commentators have guessed that these raids are no more than the normal infighting between the factions of the ruling party, but it seems unlikely that even an angry faction leader would be so reckless in present circumstances. It seems more like the recent blitz in Italy, driven by the enthusiasm of the investigators.

Whatever the causes, the present conjuncture has virtually paralysed the normal system of official guidance, the Japanese term for a command economy. This was based on the informal but virtually absolute power of bureaucrats in the ministries of finance (MoF) or trade (MITI). There were few official directives — indeed, nothing at all on paper. But a suggestion, usually made over a business lunch (now banned for all officials), had the power of a command. Officials could create new ones, or direct funds into the financial markets more or less at will.

Even at its height, however, this system had no command over ordinary citizens, whose reluctance to spend is the root cause of the depression. And the decision process itself has largely seized up. All commentators are agreed on one point: the reason why last week's fiscal announcement was so short of detail was not budget purdah, but because the details do not yet exist.

Politicians will fill in some blanks in due course, but everyone will be amazed if the effective total is more than a small fraction of the announced target. MoF remains hostile to reflation in principle, and is a master of producing impressive numbers by shuffling between on-budget and off-budget programmes, or changing details of timing.

Officials, who are remarkably frank — though they are readier to guess who will be the next suicide than what will be the next policy action — admit these criticisms but claim that critics miss the point. The coming Big Bang in the financial market will achieve what officials have failed to do, restructure the banks and securities bad debts. So it may; but at high risk — notably the risk that many of the yen notes sitting in home safes will be converted into dollars or euros.

It is perhaps more realistic to hope that the next twist in the crisis — a new yen slide, or the Nikkei heading down through the 14,000 crisis mark — will finally galvanize the system and form a consensus for real action. The fortunes not only of Japan, but of its South-East Asian trade partners, which hope for salvation through Japanese demand, and even of Wall Street, may depend on it.

Ten troubled years in the life of the City fraud busters

Jon Ashworth looks back on the showcase trials and tribulations of the SFO



Wright: success rate hope

Against the odds, the Serious Fraud Office has made it to its tenth birthday. Launched on April 6 1988, it has weathered hurricane-force winds to emerge battered yet defiant. Some evocative names lie scattered in its wake — Clowes, Nadir, Maxwell. Less memorable players have come and gone. Yet for all the SFO's success, with three out of every four cases yielding at least one conviction, it is the gaffes and disasters that are remembered.

Like the case of Roger Levitt, pensions salesman-turned-bribe promoter, who escaped imprisonment when an SFO plea bargain went wrong. The prosecutor misread his notes, and Levitt ended up doing community service. Like the case of Asil Nadir, founder of Polly Peck International, who skipped to northern Cyprus before the SFO could bring him to trial. Like the raid on Control Securities, when the SFO van was wheel-clamped by an over-zealous traffic warden. Serious Force, it was quipped, at a Seriously Flawed Office.

With hindsight, the SFO has done us a service in providing a vintage cast of characters. Remember Robbie Miller, the north London stockbroker whose antics kept us so entertained in July 1997? Faced with the imminent collapse of his Dundas Securities, Miller checked into the Grosvenor House, contemplated suicide but went to Brazil instead. He returned and was sentenced to six years.

Then there was Nadir, whose fruit-to-electronics empire went down the pan just three months after Dundasdale. It started with that most emotive of events — a dawn raid — and descended into bedlam, as Nadir did the City rounds, flanked by his posse of bodyguards. Nadir delighted in evading the press, using decoy cars and slipping out of his Berkeley Square office via Annabel's nightclub, conveniently next door.

It was the high-profile swoops, followed by bungled prosecutions, that perhaps did for the SFO. The tone was set early on with Guinness and Blue Arrow, and continued, most recently, with the prosecution of Kevin and Jan Maxwell. Five years of legal wranglings saw the Maxwells walk free, at a cost to the taxpayer of up to £25 million.

Though hard to believe, the SFO was launched on a tide of high optimism. Lord Roskill's fraud trials report of 1986 called for a unit in which lawyers, accountants and police would stand shoulder to shoulder in fighting white-collar crime. Talented practitioners clamoured to sign up, drawn by the vision of an American-style fraud hit-squad, in which you "went in fast, and went in hard".

John Wood, the founder director of the SFO, brought in senior accountants on secondment from big City firms. He recalls: "They were worth their weight in gold, providing expertise and training to the younger accountants." Rivalries and clashes of culture gave rise to tensions at Elm House, the SFO's cramped central London headquarters.

The Guinness investigation was inherited from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), but the SFO did not have to wait long for its first real case. The

collapse of Barlow Clowes, which sold "safe" gilt-edged investments to the elderly, gave the public a taste of the SFO's sweeping powers of investigation. The magic began to wear off over Guinness and Blue Arrow. Wood left in August 1990, handing over to Dame Barbara Mills, who left after 20 months to become Director of Public Prosecutions. She stayed long enough to see the Bank of Credit and Commerce

International (BCCI) shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991 with losses of US\$10 billion. Robert Maxwell went overboard in November 1991.

Dame Barbara's successor, George Staple, served five years, and endured the worst of the criticism to be directed at the SFO. Nadir fled in May 1993. Levitt walked free six months later, and George Walker, the founder of Brent Walker, was acquitted in October 1994.

The SFO was roundly criticised for even considering a second Maxwell trial, after the brothers were cleared in January 1996. It won its case against Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Nadir — only to see the ruling reversed by the Court of Appeal. The one big running success has been BCCI, with convictions in six out of six cases.

Staple, now back with Clifford Chance, the law firm, says the turning point for the SFO came in March 1995, when the Davie Committee advised against subsiding the unit into the CPS. There had been daily predictions of the SFO's imminent demise. Staple says: "Looking back, that was probably the watershed. Generally speaking, there had been rather bad vibes about the office up until that point. From then on, the SFO was set on a new path."

The threshold for new cases dropped from £5 million to £1 million, prompting a flurry of activity. An internal reorganisation bought greater focus. There was to be closer cooperation with regional UK police forces. More would be done to assist overseas authorities with requests for information.

With the showcase trials behind it — barring Nadir, who theoretically still faces trial — the SFO has not been much in the news of late. The cases continue to feed through the system, bringing the tally to 169 trials since the SFO started.

Of 389 defendants prosecuted, 256 have been convicted, resulting in a respectable conviction rate of 65 per cent. Rosalind Wright, director for the past year, can take heart from that.

Frauds are invariably exposed by one of two events — as was the case in the early 1990s. One is a collapse in share prices, which leads to bankers calling in loans, exposing Maxwell-style "black holes". The other is recession. Sooner or later, the cycle will come round again, and a fresh batch of empires will topple. It will be interesting to see whether the SFO makes a better job of things next time — or whether the demons of the past will return to haunt it.

Levitt: community service

Drop shop

DESPITE the elevation of Roger Partington to Safeway's board, it seems like curtains for his creation, the precocious child shoppers, Harry, Molly and Joe. The trio, it seems, have become victims of the industrial action by Equity over payments for TV adverts.

Harry, real name Jack, has already been pensioned off, having reached school age, a problem which is about to afflict Molly, who is played by Rosie. Though Joe is still young enough to work, the actor Paul

Whitehouse who voiced the child, is apparently concerned about crossing the electronic picket lines, as it were.

New Safeway adverts have appeared, featuring a red-haired child voiced by Cilla Black, who is not concerned about the strike. New ones, with the voice of Jeremy Clarkson, who is not an Equity member, are being made. Safeway is looking for children who look like celebrities, though ideally not left-wing. Equity card-holding celebrities.



Safeway's Harry (Jack) has been forced to retire at 6

Virgin call

THOSE bean counters who fancy a more exciting life should head towards Richard Branson's Virgin empire, which is looking for a new financial controller. The advert promises £50,000 a year plus benefits, and salaries: "The spirit of ads, and salivates: Virgin's mark of excellence." However, given the recent revelations about the financial health of certain Virgin companies, whomever takes the role should stock up with red ink for his or her pen. Meanwhile, in another corner of the bearded one's empire, Rowan Gormley is being kicked upstairs and they are looking for a new managing director for Virgin Direct. "Financial services experience desirable, but not essential," goes the blurb. "Empathy with Virgin values a must." Whatever can that mean?



able, but not essential," goes the blurb. "Empathy with Virgin values a must." Whatever can that mean?

Post date

THERE was a certain amount of shock registered at the old *Yorkshire Post* on the sighting of Tony Brierley, one of the team at Arthur Andersen that handled the administration of the Maxwell empire. Surely the paper, which has only just been bought out from United News & Media by a team led by Chiven, was not in need of an insolvency expert. I can lay any worries to rest, Brierley — who doesn't have that much insolvency work to do at the moment, thanks to Gordon Brown —

is filling in as acting chief executive while the *Yorkshire Post* waits for Mirror Group to release Chris Oakley, chief executive designate.

Cool to be Brit

WHATEVER happens in the second leg of the Cup Winners' Cup in two week's time, England will have a representative in the final. Much has been made of Gianluca Vialli's return to Italy as manager of Chelsea last night, but Vicenza are almost as British. The club was bought out of receivership by Stellican, a London-based investment firm backed by ENIC, the vehicle of billionaire Joe Lewis. The only wrinkle in the Union Jack is the fact that Stellican's chief executive, Stephen Julius, is half Milanese. Given the feeling about Milan in Vicenza, Julius could be forgiven if he plays up his Britishness.

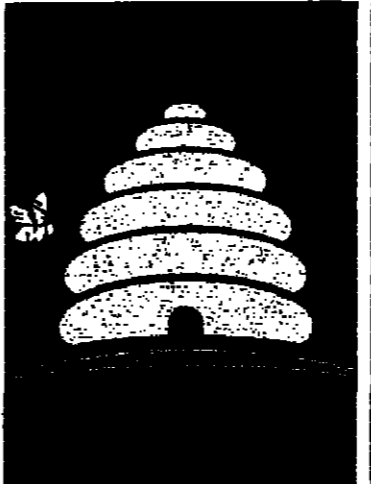
Bee keepers

FIRST ACTIVE sounds like a gym, or maybe something you buy from the Early Learning Centre. But it is actually the new name for Ireland's First National Building Society, which is relaunching itself with a new logo, resembling the hive that might have been inhabited by National & Provincial's blind, legless bee. But why such a silly name for a perfectly sensible financial services company? It seems that First Active is due to demutualise in the next couple

of years. And the name First National Bank would be uncomfortably close to the name of a tertiary lender which had to be rescued a number of times by the Bank of England.

□ *LIFE must be so much easier as a company director in France. The offer document from Decaux for poster business More Group has just been published. It contains the following gem: "No details have been given of directors' remuneration because this would indirectly entail the disclosure of the remuneration of certain individuals." Bien sûr.*

JASON NISSE



First Active found a sting in the name First National

The Open University
BUSINESS SCHOOL

The fast track management certificate

Now you can achieve a Professional Certificate in Management in one year, with the Open University Business School. The certificate covers managing people, operations, information, resources and finance.

As world leaders in supported distance learning, we offer everything you need to make learning effective and enjoyable. You work in your own time, at your own pace. But your personal tutor is only a phone call away, and you can meet fellow students through study groups and residential schools.

All OUBS courses are backed by over 25 years' experience in distance learning. Our methods and materials were given the highest rating of 'excellent' by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

For details of our courses return the coupon. Or call the 24-hour OUBS Hotline.

Send to: Course Reservations Centre, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.

Please send me your Management Development prospectus. I have contacted the OUBS before. Yes/No.

Title	Initials	Surname	B9630
Address			
Postcode			
Tel	Date of birth 19		

OUBS Hotline 01908 653449
<http://oubs.open.ac.uk>

The Open University opens minds, opens doors

Shares make further gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997/98	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
618	42.5	42.0	Alfred Dunhill	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
620	42.5	42.0	Brewery Partners	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
622	42.5	42.0	Carlsberg	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
624	42.5	42.0	Heineken	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
626	42.5	42.0	Interbrew	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
628	42.5	42.0	Miller	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
630	42.5	42.0	Orkla	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
632	42.5	42.0	Reckitt Benckiser	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
634	42.5	42.0	United Breweries	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
636	42.5	42.0	Wolfsberg	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
638	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
640	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
642	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
644	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
646	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
648	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
650	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
652	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
654	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
656	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
658	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
660	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
662	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
664	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
666	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
668	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
670	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
672	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
674	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
676	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
678	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
680	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
682	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
684	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
686	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
688	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
690	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
692	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
694	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
696	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
698	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
700	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
702	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
704	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
706	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
708	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
710	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
712	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
714	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
716	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
718	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
720	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
722	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
724	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
726	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
728	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
730	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
732	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
734	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
736	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
738	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
740	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
742	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
744	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
746	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
748	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
750	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
752	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
754	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
756	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
758	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
760	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
762	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
764	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
766	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
768	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
770	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
772	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
774	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
776	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
778	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
780	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
782	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
784	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
786	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
788	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
790	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
792	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
794	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
796	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
798	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
800	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
802	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
804	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
806	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
808	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
810	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
812	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
814	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
816	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
818	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
820	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
822	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
824	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
826	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
828	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
830	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
832	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
834	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
836	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
838	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
840	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
842	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
844	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
846	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
848	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
850	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
852	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
854	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
856	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
858	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
860	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
862	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
864	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
866	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
868	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
870	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
872	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
874	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
876	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
878	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
880	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
882	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
884	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
886	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
888	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
890	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
892	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
894	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
896	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
898	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
900	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
902	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
904	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5
906	42.5	42.0	Yallahs	42.5	+0.5	+1.2	15.5

هكذا في الاجل

Quadrant stake for Granada

Granada's food services division has acquired a 49 per cent stake in Quadrant, the catering arm of the Post Office, for more than £20 million, pipping Compass and Gardner Merchant. Quadrant, which recently won a new five-year contract with the Post Office, has a turnover of £70 million a year.

Under the terms of the joint venture, Granada Food Services (GFS), which has an annual turnover of almost £700 million, will invest an initial £1 million in new technology, restaurant and kitchen refurbishments and branded food offerings.

Quadrant, in which the Post Office will retain a 51 per cent holding, operates more than 430 staff restaurants serving more than 55,000 meals, its busiest site being the Mount Pleasant sorting office in London, where it serves 3,000 meals a day. It also has 26 external contracts.

GFS is also poised to acquire Capitol Catering, a Reading firm with about 60 contracts and turnover of about £10 million.

Pace chiefs in share buy

Two directors of Pace Micro Technology yesterday each bought £1.24 million worth of shares in the company, which was recently awarded a contract to manufacture set-top boxes for British Digital Broadcasting.

Pace was one of six companies awarded contracts by BDB, the joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada. The purchases by David Hood, director of advanced technology, and Robert Fleming, operations director, were made at 44½p per share. Pace's share price responded positively, rising 5½p to 52p.

Pace floated in June 1996 only to see its share price collapse from 247½p to just 25½p after a series of profits warnings and a management upheaval. Mr Hood now owns 26 per cent of the company, with Mr Fleming holding 5 per cent.

Custody sale in the offing

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co, the US financial services firm, is exploring the sale of its global custody and correspondent clearing businesses. The firm, the product of a \$10.7 billion merger last year, said that it had entered discussions with "established market leaders" on the sale.

Energis forms alliance with Europe's big telecoms players

By CHRIS AVRES

A NEW force emerged in the UK telecoms market yesterday when Energis teamed up with Europe's two biggest players, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom, to create a joint venture company.

MetroHoldings will invest £100 million over the next five years to build local metropolitan telecoms networks in the UK, with up to £40 million earmarked for the City of London. "Our objective is to be the leading alternative to British Telecom in the business marketplace," it said. However, no pricing details have yet been released.

MetroHoldings, which expects to have London's core infrastructure in place by the end of the year, said the investment could easily double if the project goes well. Eventually, about eight cities will be targeted.

Shares in Energis, controlled by National Grid, surged 7½p to 630p on the announcement. Analysts said they were more excited by the company's choice of partners than the details of the deal.

Energis will own 50 per cent of MetroHoldings, with Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom owning 25 per cent each.

Investment will be split accordingly. MetroHoldings will provide only infrastructure with the three companies all competing to connect customers. Other companies will



François Comet, left, of France Telecom; Mike Grabiner and Rex Stephenson, right, of Deutsche Telekom

also be allowed access to the infrastructure.

MetroHoldings will have its own board, with the chairmanship being rotated yearly between the companies. Mike Grabiner, chief executive of Energis, will become the first chairman. He said: "This is a very competitive market. It is not unusual that you have co-

operation on an infrastructure level but competition on a service level."

Energis, which was created by National Grid to build a high-capacity, low-cost, fibre-optic network carried on electricity pylons, floated at 290p per share in December last year and is now valued at more than £800 million. Its

customers include Boots, Microsoft, Virgin Atlantic, Mirror Group and the BBC.

France Telecom, which is already part of Global One, a joint venture set up in 1996 between Deutsche Telekom and Sprint, said MetroHoldings would allow it to develop its presence in the UK at a reduced cost. Sprint has

an option to become a fourth partner in MetroHoldings.

Paul Grosse, senior executive director of Deutsche Telekom, said: "Through the infrastructure joint venture, we have excellent access to local loops. Our customers will benefit greatly from this."

Tempus, page 30

CDC close to new agreement on ethical investment

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE COMMONWEALTH Development Corporation, the state-owned emerging market investment fund, said that it is close to agreeing a tough set of ethical investment guidelines with the Government as it prepares for its eventual privatisation.

CDC has been thrashing out the details of how and where it will invest when it becomes a private company with the Department for International Development. The guidelines will be enshrined in law after a period of consultation with the private sector.

Lord Cairns, chairman, admitted that CDC and the Government were a long way from agreeing full details of the privatisation and had still not scheduled a date for completion.

"It is a difficult process and

we have to be certain we have the right balance," he said.

The Government revealed in October that it planned to sell off a majority stake in CDC, which has £1.6 billion under investment in 54 countries worldwide.

The sale, which is expected to fetch up to £500 million, will enable CDC to raise money on the capital markets for new investments.

Lord Cairns' comments came as CDC unveiled a 10 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £85 million, mainly owing to increased provisions for business in South-East Asia. Total provisions rose to £55 million, of which £45 million reflected South-East Asian investments. CDC, however, said it saw opportunities for renewed investment in the region as the economic crisis abates.

Powerscreen seeks to sell Matbro

By ADAM JONES

POWERSCREEN, the Northern Irish engineer, is trying to sell the subsidiary at the heart of its recent financial troubles.

In January Powerscreen was forced to take a £47 million charge against irregularities at Matbro, which makes handling equipment for the construction and agriculture industries.

Matbro had mispriced machines in an attempt to maintain market share in Europe, Powerscreen said at the time. Unreliable new designs incurred big warranty costs and buyers had received unauthorised discounts.

John Deere, the US tractor group, is negotiating to buy Matbro, although it is unlikely any deal will be agreed before KPMG, the auditor, finishes a report into the irregularities.

Laird shares hit by effects of investment costs

By ADAM JONES

SHARES in Laird Group fell 34½p to 440½p after the engineer said that 1998 profits have been placed under pressure by new product launches and factory investment.

Ian Arnott, chief executive, said the costs were a continuation of investment made in 1997 and benefits should start to be seen in the later months of 1998 and thereafter.

Laird made a pre-tax profit of £67.1 million in 1997, up marginally from the £66.7 million it reported the year before. The 1997 profits would have been £75.7 million at constant 1996 exchange rates. Sales rose from £993 million to £1.058 billion.

There were strong improvements at the service industries division, driven by Fullarton, which assembles computers for the likes of IBM and also

makes computer housings. Operating profits in the division surged from £21.7 million to £31.4 million.

However, this was almost entirely offset by a slump in its car-sealing systems arm, where profits fell from £22.2 million to £12.8 million. Mr Arnott said this reflected the establishment of new factories in the US, where Laird is expanding its minimal sealings presence, and China, as well as the need to prepare for new car ranges. Mr Arnott said pricing pressure had also contributed to the slump.

Earnings per share for continuing operations rose from 35p to 37.8p. No final dividend will be paid because two interim dividends have already been declared, making a total of 14.3p per share, up from 13p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tate & Lyle wins US approval for sucralose

SHARES of Tate & Lyle rose 18p to 549p yesterday after the company secured US regulatory approval for sucralose, its new low-calorie sugar supplement. After approval by the US Food and Drug Administration, sucralose will be marketed in America by Johnson and Johnson. Sir Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate and Lyle, said: "The US approval provides the foundation for the expansion of sucralose as a global business. This will have no material effect on Tate & Lyle's results in the short term, but it affords us the opportunity to enhance the longer-term performance of the group."

Tate & Lyle claims sucralose is the first diet sweetener to be made from sugar. The company claims its advantages over existing products include the absence of the unpleasant tastes some sweeteners produce when mixed with foods or drinks and stored for long periods. It could also be put through high-temperature processing techniques common among food makers without changing its taste.

BWI sees profits slip

BWI, the packaging and process machinery maker, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £3.3 million to £3 million on sales down from £42.8 million to £41.4 million in the six months to January 31. Earnings fell from 4.9p to 4.6p and the half-year dividend fell from 3p to 2p. Michael Windsor, chairman, said: "The combination of an improved order book, our strategic focusing and cost reduction measures leads the board to expect a satisfactory outcome to the financial year."

Biffa makes three deals

SEVERN TRENT, the privatised water and waste treatment company, said its Biffa subsidiary has completed three acquisitions at a cost of £23 million, including three landfill sites in the South of England and the company's first waste collection operation in Scotland. Biffa has also acquired 50 per cent of Cantford Renewable Energy, a joint venture with WH White, which operates a 7 megawatt landfill gas power generation plant.

Discovery for Borneo

BRITISH-BORNEO, the UK oil and gas company, is expanding interests around its Morpeth field in the Gulf of Mexico with the acquisition of a 16.67 per cent stake in Discovery Producer Services LLC for \$83.3 million (about £50 million). The stake is being acquired from Texaco and Williams for \$48.3 million in cash, with British-Borneo assuming debts of \$35 million. Separately British-Borneo is selling Discovery oilfield facilities worth \$24 million.

Johnston earnings drop

JOHNSTON GROUP, the engineering and construction materials company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £4.45 million from £5.65 million in 1997. Earnings fell to 22.03p a share from 30.94p in the previous year. The total dividend is unchanged at 12p a share, with a 7½p final. The shares, worth 520p a year ago, fell a further 7½p to 262½p yesterday despite the company's statement that most businesses had begun the year well with strong order books.

Yorklyde cuts dividend

YORKLYDE, the cloth and accessories group, is to cut its total dividend from 8p to 5p after reducing the final from 5.35p to 2.35p. Earnings fell from 10.7p to 6.3p after the group suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.8 million to £960,000 in the year to January 31. The strong pound, the Asian crisis, warm winter weather and higher interest rates were all blamed for the fall. Charles Brook, chairman, said: "It is our intention to increase dividends in line with earnings growth."

Ramco suffers sales fall

RAMCO ENERGY suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £873,000 to £484,000 in the year to December 31 on sales down from £8.2 million to £6.2 million. Earnings fell from 2.78p to 1.49p and there will be no dividend. Steve Remp, chairman and chief executive, said: "We are in dialogue with several multinational oil companies regarding partnerships and our financial position will enable us to act quickly as opportunities arise." The shares were unchanged at 700p.

A NEW WAY TO FLY TO OVER 200 CITIES IN THE U.S.

— New nonstop service to Philadelphia and Charlotte from London Gatwick. —

Now US Airways flies nonstop to Philadelphia, Charlotte, New York, Washington, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tampa, and Los Angeles. Plus, new routes to Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco. Call your travel agent or US Airways on 0800 788 5556.

Enjoy Class — business travel with the comfort and ease of a first-class experience.

U.S. AIRWAYS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Unit Name', 'Bid', 'Offer', and 'Change'. Includes various fund names such as 'ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST', 'ABN AMRO EQUITY UNIT TRUST', etc.

Advertisement for 'Earn MONEY MARKET RATES On your Money NOW' by Cater Allen Money Market Hotline. Includes phone number 0800 716 177 and a logo.

Handwritten text on the right margin: 'Park da...', 'entum...', 'mekho'

Handwritten text on the right margin: 'Piano pre...', 'CREA...'

Handwritten text at the bottom center: 'LORDI 1150'

Not often does this sony-faced column go all soppy over the plight of people whom Sir Peter Hall insists I mustn't call luvvies. But research released this week by two of our finest drama schools, RADA and LAMDA, does paint a truly jaw-dropping picture of poverty among drama students.

More than 100 wannabe Branaghs and Bonham Carters were recently questioned about their finances. One student, it seems, has managed to run up an astonishing £17,000 in debts; another £13,000. Many others have debts in four figures.

The problem is well known: drama or dance students don't get mandatory grants if their colleges are not affiliated to universities, and RADA and LAMDA don't see why they should affiliate. After all, nobody doubts the world-class quality of their teaching.

But many local authorities won't give discretionary grants. An Arts Council lottery scheme designed to tackle this distressing state of

Actor one, scene one: enter poverty

affairs has had some success: 582 dance and drama students were helped in its first year. But it has two big flaws: first, it is a temporary scheme, running only four years; and secondly, it requires (as all lottery projects do) matching funds. So if your local authority won't give a grant under any circumstances for dance and drama studies — and don't underestimate the grip of philistinism on Britain's town halls — you won't get Arts Council money either.

Moreover, banks often won't give normal student loans to training actors and dancers (Barclays is singled out for special criticism). Perhaps the bankers suspect that they won't see the dosh again. Yet tuition fees alone for a RADA or LAMDA course amount to £21,000; rent and food come on top. Most drama students cram a part-time job into week-



RICHARD MORRISON

ends and evenings. Nevertheless, many are clearly running up massive credit card debts.

Of course, if you are smitten with the acting bug, any mad sacrifice seems worthwhile. One mature student, the research reveals, sold his house and car and used up all his savings to attend drama school. Another danced his way from London to Norwich in a sponsored re-creation of Will Kemp's celebrated marathon jig in Shakespeare's day.

Many others show stamina of an epistolary kind: writing an endless stream of begging letters. Even journalists receive them: I've got one on my desk now, accompanied by a very fetching photograph — but in this inky profession we are trained to harden our hearts against such seductive appeals.

Even so, one eternally optimistic drama student told the researchers that he had written to more than 700 businesses and charities, as well as to individuals known to be susceptible to a sob-story. Sir Cameron Mackintosh is among those frequently cited for generos-

ity. But with the best will in the world (and one of the largest bank balances, of course) the saintly Sir Cam cannot be expected to subsidise the training of the entire British acting profession.

The traditional British view about debt-laden proto-theatians is one of indifference laced with amused contempt. "Good," we say, "it will toughen them up." After all, 95 per cent of all actors face a life of threadbare frugality.

But the romantic notion that three years of humiliating squalor will somehow deepen the artistry of young performers owes more to sepia-tinted *La Bohème* productions than it does to logic. The probability — as with other pressing arts education issues, a provision of music in schools — is that soon only wealthy middle-class kids will study the arts properly. We will end up with lots of little Hugh Grants and no new Michael Caines. Not a prospect to please the casting directors.

Politicians, especially the current bunch, love to bask in the reflected glory when our thespians are acclaimed across the globe. Yet they force future stars into a kind of Trial by Starvation when the kids should be honing their hooding or maturing their Method. It's surely time that top-quality vocational courses of such obvious relevance to "Cool Britannia" were given the same status as academic studies at university.

And now, from our "what-ever crazy thing America does today Britain will do tomorrow" department, here is a strange little tale. In some parts of the United States the task of teaching young children to read appears to have been entrusted to

Dark days return for Chekhov

If as thoroughly Chekhovian a play as *Uncle Vanya* can be said to have something as unChekhovian as a climax, it surely comes in Act III, when the title character barges about waving the revolver he has already fired offstage. His putative victim, the maddening old professor who has exploited him for years and has just blithely suggested the family estate be sold, ignominiously scuttles and covers as a second and final shot whizzes past him. "Missed again," wails Vanya. "Damn, damn, damn." For me, it is the point at which tragic-comedy, a form that had moldered in the closet since the Jacobean, makes its definitive reappearance on the world stage. It is, or can be, simultaneously awful and hilarious.

But not in Katie Mitchell's production for the RSC. There were few if any laughs when Stephen Dillane's Vanya took deliberate aim at Malcolm Sinclair's terrified Serebryakov, inexplicably managed to miss and then raged at a gun that was either misfiring or out of bullets. It was a genuine murder attempt by a man who was not chaotic, not hysterical, but grimly bent on vengeance. And as such it seemed characteristic of a revival set on bucking the Chekhovian fashions and trends.

These derive from some of Chekhov's own remarks about his work, and in particular from his belief that Stanislavsky's original productions were too fussy, too atmospheric and not funny enough. And one can hardly lament the disappearance of the kind of English revival in which pale-faced nobles wait round in which-cousins, exuding little but wistfulness. That was the style of interpretation that led D.H. Lawrence to dub Chekhov "Willy Wedgbe", the bard of genteel drapery.

Mitchell is too good a director to restore that Chekhov to the stage, but her production gives *Vanya* the play and Vanya the man a sombre feel. Despite a notably sharp,

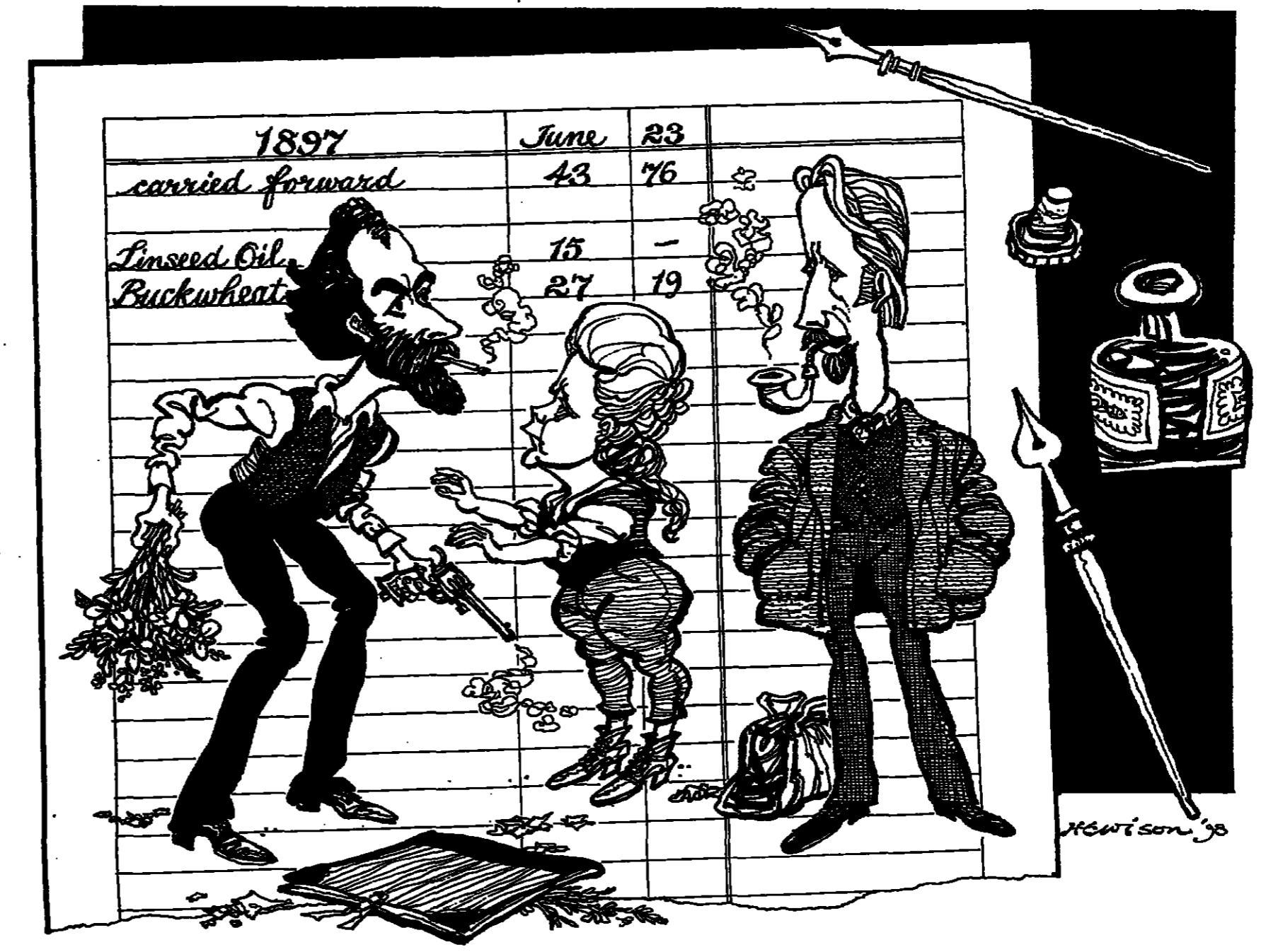


bright translation from David Lan, the comedy is surprisingly muted. There are long silences and, at times, a brooding atmosphere. The acting tends towards the ultra-naturalistic and the hyper-intimate: so much so that some exchanges, especially those involving Anastasia Hille as Serebryakov's frustrated young wife, are barely more than whispered.

Something is missing, yet somehow it doesn't matter. As often with Mitchell's work, there is intensity in the silences and the intimacies. Indeed, the emotional stakes in this production are unusually high. Dillane's Vanya visibly declines from a malcontent in dark glasses, snapping out sardonic contempt for Serebryakov, to a sweaty, rumpled, lovelorn mess, desperate enough to do anything. And the sense of woe extends to the object of his forlorn passion, in Hille's performance a restless, distracted woman half-wanting, half-hating male attention, and even to his old mother, as Cherry Morris plays her not the usual snugg intellectual but a woman sublimating in books the same needs and fears the rest of the cast feels.

The rest of the cast includes Jo McInnes as a doughty, feeling Sonya and Linus Roache as an Astrov who seems a bit underpowered, perhaps because he sees the family doctor as a man close to giving up on his twin obsessions, medicine and conservation. But what finally justifies Mitchell's production is that you never forget that their needs and fears involve love and loss and ageing and the terrible waste of self. It's not what I'd call a definitive production — with Chekhov, what is? — but it is a mightily absorbing one.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Stephen Dillane as Vanya, Jo McInnes as Sonya and Linus Roache as Astrov in Katie Mitchell's gloomy and absorbing *Uncle Vanya* for the Royal Shakespeare Company

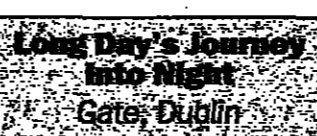
Eugene O'Neill does not play opium addiction and terminal disease for laughs. Karel Reisz's production of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* does a thorough job of keeping jollity at bay from the Irish-American dramatist's bleak autobiographical story of one family's cataclysmic night of drink, drugs and recriminations.

The director gently steers Sonya Kelly's lippy, tipsy, Irish maid, Cathleen, towards a Mrs Doyle-esque caricature, but for the most part he lets the chronically dependent Tyrone family sink

True to the author's spirit

slowly into their very particular collection of private hells.

James Tyrone (Donald Moffat), the family patriarch, is secretly torturing himself for squandering his talent. He does not see very much until he has had a drink or two, and only faded glories after that point. His wife Mary (Rosaleen Linehan) prefers a little morphine but the effect is rather



David Herlihy

brother James Junior (David Herlihy) opts for a more typical Tyrone response, burying his head in a bottle.

It would be odd to choose to spend three hours in the company of these people, but here performance, as subtle as the dialogue is direct, almost make this collection of liars, failures, addicts, cowards and self-deceivers attractive.

While Scott and Herlihy are full of ferocious intensity, the show's veteran actors bring O'Neill's complex mixture of grief and anger into focus. Moffat's rangy Tyrone snaps and pops with the threat of violence but always, predictably, ends up damaging himself most of all. Linehan, not always the most yielding of actors, gives a spiky, unerving Mary, stepping nimbly between her fogbound house and the very different fogs into which her morphine fix leads her.

LUKE CLANCY

CONCERTS: The CBSO's new boss in action; tempestuous Kathleen Battle in memory trouble; and a German orchestra in fine form

Piano prestissimo

Birmingham will have to wait a little longer to meet the Finnish soprano Anu Komsi. By then her husband Sakari Oramo will be in place as principal conductor and artistic adviser of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, succeeding Sir Simon Rattle, and she will be the mother of the baby whose imminent arrival has put a temporary stop to her travelling.

So we will also have to wait to hear her interpretation of Lutoslawski's *Chantefleurs et Chantefables* and the four early Debussy songs Oramo has arranged for her.

The soloist taking part at short notice in the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto in G minor, at the centre of a much-changed programme, was Anya Alexeyev. Given more time to think about it, she might have chosen a steadier tempo for the second movement which, presumably at her request and certainly on the conductor's clear instructions, the CBSO timpanist set going at an alarming pace.

The presto last movement is obviously meant to be fast but here too, no less than in the allegro scherzando, there has to be time not only for the precise articulation of every note in exactly the right rhythmic place but also for a little charm and wit — qualities which, after her technically firm but very sober first movement, were in rather short supply.



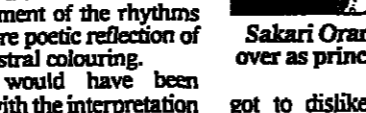
Sakari Oramo

Perhaps, exceptionally gifted pianist though she is, it is just not her piece. There were interesting questions of temperament also in the purely orchestral works in the programme. The ardent sincerity of Fauré's *Pelleas et Melisande* music inspired an interpretation that found far more emotional capital in it than, as a suite of incidental music, it is normally credited with.

The atmospheric aspects of Ravel's *Rhapsodie Espagnole* and Debussy's *Prelude d'*

l'après-midi d'un faune were not, on the other hand, presented at full value. In the first of the Ravel pieces it was partly a matter of woodwind intonation and, perhaps, unfamiliarity with the acoustic variables of Symphony Hall. But both works would have benefited from a more seductive treatment of the rhythms and a more poetic reflection of the orchestral colouring.

Ravel would have been pleased with the interpretation of *Botero*, however. In Oramo's hands it was moderately paced, absolutely steady in tempo and straight in rhythm, not at all sensuous in phrasing — the composer soon



Gerald Lerner

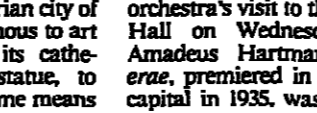
got to dislike the lascivious potential in the score — and so regular in every respect as to make the final eruption seem positively catastrophic.

GERALD LARNER

Eloquent homage to wartime defiance

Just as the Bavarian city of Bamberg is famous to art historians for its cathedral's equestrian statue, to music lovers the name means one thing above all: its orchestra, well known through countless recordings. The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra has a unique history, formed as it was after the Second World War by former members of the German Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague, and a unique sound that reflects that heritage.

Both Prague and those turbulent times were reflected in the work that opened the



Karl Amadeus Hartmann

measured opening, full of tension, gave way to a surging second movement, and the scherzo revealed the players' instinctive Central European feeling for the dances that break through the surface repeatedly. Metzmacher made

places, but the piece showcased the orchestra's special colour — notably the dark, rounded brass in the funeral march with which it begins.

Bamberg's Second Violin Concerto, dating from the late 1930s, followed logically. Ingo Metzmacher, the orchestra's principal guest conductor, shaped the score with clarity and control, but sparks did not fly as they might have: though Viktoria Mullova seized the opening solo vigorously, she played with a little too much detachment in the lyrical passages. Cool rather than cold, she despatched the big cadenza brilliantly but without real abandonment, yet she captured the dreamy tenderness of the slow movement perfectly. The finale, a fiery dance with moments of repose, went well.

Orchestra and conductor got a chance to prove their credentials in a compelling account of Mahler's Fifth that was never overblown. The warm strings stood out, but the entire band showed a strong sense of ensemble, allowing Metzmacher to stamp his mark on the work. His

orchestra's visit to the Festival Hall on Wednesday, Karl Amadeus Hartmann's *Miserere*, premiered in the Czech capital in 1935, was the composer's first public protest against the Nazi regime. Eloquent and defiant, it also rambles in

the famous adagio grow out of nothing, capturing the mood of sad resignation with a slow but fluid baton, and reached the hard-won ending in a blaze of affirmation.

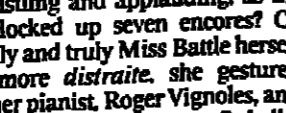
JOHN ALLISON

Distraite Miss B

SO WHO were the real April Fools? Those who bought a ticket for Kathleen Battle's recital in the first place? Those who sat grim-faced as notes and words were forgotten or totally ignored in Purcell, Handel, Fauré, Wolf? Those who stood, whistling and applauding, as the evening clocked up seven encores? Or was it really and truly Miss Battle herself as, ever more *distraite*, she gestured wildly at her pianist, Roger Vignoles, drowning in an adulation which, like her own act, threatened to lose all control?

There can be no final answer. The only certainty is that whatever Miss B sings turns into Miss B. And you either love it or hate it. Or relish it as virtuosic performance art, and alternately laugh and groan at what is most musically preposterous and egomaniacal.

When Battle sings Purcell's *Music for a White or There's not a Swain*, there is little hope of either pitch or rhythm being sustained without an accompanist as



Kathleen Battle

astute as Vignoles working hard on damage limitation. Yet when she turns to the same composer's *The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation*, in its realisation by Britten, she lives its anxious questionings so intensely that the palpitations of every repeated note and phrase are magicked into music in spite of themselves.

So it was with the lute songs of John Dowland. While words, metre and rhythm were often slurred into a generalised croon, Battle's eager engage-



Roger Vignoles

ment with both her audience and with the sensualist in Dowland quickened some long-forgotten spirit in these songs, and thrillingly revealed their true stature. In Wolf and Handel patience was sorely tried. Were the memory lapses, the false starts, all part of the act? One thing is for sure: an obsession with the self over and above the music is certain to lead to a loss of focus. And Battle lacks the vocal muscle and technique for much of what she chooses. Few accompanists could respond to her unpredictability with the aplomb and sheer invention shown by Vignoles on Wednesday.

And so it came to the encores. For *Heaven is a Beautiful Place*, Hush, *Someone's Calling my Name* and *Lil' David*, Battle stood alone, giving her entire self to her audience. What they received was in their hands alone; and this, at least, Battle understands very well.

HILARY FINCH

The Bible

Readings from the King James Version
A Celebration of Easter
10 - 13 APRIL

11 April 3pm St Giles' Cripplegate
George Baker and Timothy West read *From The Beginning* - readings from the Books of Genesis and Exodus.

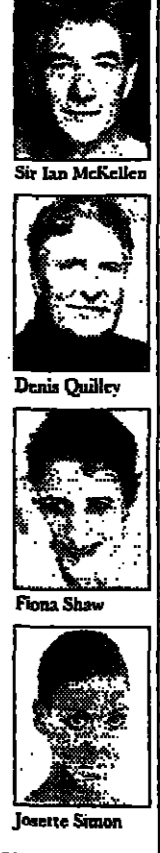
12 April 3pm Barbican Theatre
Daniel Evans and Sir Ian McKellen read *The Good News* - A reading of the Gospel of St John

12 April 7.30pm Barbican Theatre
Samantha Bond, Michael Maloney, Josette Simon and Denis Quilley read *Songs And Wisdoms* - readings from the Old Testament

13 April 3pm St Giles' Cripplegate
Fiona Shaw and Ronald Pickup read *Revelations* - A reading of the Revelation of St John the Divine.

The weekend also includes concerts and films. Call the Box Office for tickets and a leaflet

Barbican Centre
Box Office 0171 638 8891



A name to write in all capitals

It has taken three singles to turn the audience from a typographical nightmare into surefire success fodder

When the bugle sounds, you must respond. Not since Suede set out has a band's first three singles sounded so uncannily like a call to armed worship. When the audience — all lower case and run together, like e.e. cummings running out of space on an envelope — put out their debut single in December, it was so shockingly poised, adult and vertiginous, that it was like suddenly finding Paloma Picasso in your drawing-room, naked, on a thoroughbred racehorse. *I Got the Where-withal* was a pop vision: an orchestra that plunged and soars like a Gothic Swan Lake; an electric piano coda that twinkled like gold thread in black velvet.

And then there was the soon-to-be-copyrighted Voice of Desire, an extraordinary thing, purring and snarling with extraordinary elasticity. It was a voice of decadent sumptuousness, that sounded as though the singer had something delicious in her mouth — a spoonful of champagne; a sliver of truffle; a single Belgian chocolate; three cool, round pearls.

It is the voice of Sophie Ellis Bextor, 18 years old and beautiful like liquid Vivien Leigh poured into a Helena Bonham Carter mould. She is showbusiness royalty. "No I'm not," she frowns, dealing out a mock slap.

She is, though. The daughter of Janet Ellis, the *Blue Peter* presenter of the 1980s who left in a tabloid froth about her unwed pregnancy, she has had the kind of surreal C-list upbringing lovers of kitsch would die for. *That's Life's* Chris Searle was the family's lodger. Caron Keating, daughter of Gloria Hunniford, is her brother's

godmother. And Nerys Hughes... "I feel quite bad about Nerys," Bextor says. "They were using our kitchen as a set for some TV show, which meant poor Nerys was in the firing line for my adolescent strops. I'd come home from school for dinner and she'd be in there, and I'd be flouncing past her to the fridge, going: 'Do you mind, I'm trying to get to the tuna!'"

Bextor is only part of the audience, however. We should not forget the hyperactive hyper-intelligent hyper-gazer Billy Reeves. He has



CAITLIN MORAN

had a varied life: he was a golf caddy at 13, had a spell as a journalist on *What Car* (he rated the Skoda Estate five out of five) and did PR for Pulp in the years when people were wont to ring up and say: "This band, Pulp — what kind of music is it?"

Reeves didn't even realise he wanted to be in a band until the day he discovered his wife could play guitar. "I can't even remember how long we'd been married before I found out," he says. "We were just watching telly and she mentioned it. I got her to show me chords and the next morning I could remember them, then it struck me — I want a band!"

His blueprint ideal was Echo and the Bunnymen — dark, angular and febrile, yet

so sky-punchingly pop that milkmen took to wearing black and whistling their tunes. "Once I decided I needed a singer, it got difficult, because I knew exactly what I wanted," he says. "Young, beautiful and genius with absolutely no compromises. It took me years to find her."

When he and Bextor finally met in a nightclub, Reeves was convinced she wouldn't be able to sing, as she looked too perfect. And Sophie, after being handed one of Reeves's tapes, was rather shocked to find herself listening to some 1970s German electronic music. "He'd put his songs on the other side and forgotten to rewind it," Bextor recalls. "He nearly lost me there."

A mere year later, they are like an old couple: she poised, pragmatic and wry; he manic, idealistic and hilarious. While he writes the music and lyrics, she does the artwork, videos and the editing of his more ridiculous ideas. "She is the barometer; she unerringly knows what's right or wrong," Reeves explains. "What she says is naff, goes."

The audience deal in all the absolute necessities that a band have to if they are to rule the world: Beauty, Genius, Humour, Variety. Most bands have two songs — the Fast One and the Slow One — but the audience have five. There's the Epic: the Fizzing Rodeo Eclectica; the One Where Bextor Decides Revenge is a Dish Best Eaten Cold, but Having Seconds is Absolutely Necessary; the Torch Song that's Wired to the Mains; and Pop Nirvana.

A *Pessimist is Never Disappointed*, the audience's third and current single, falls happily into the last category. A beautiful piece of craftsmanship, cunningly hinged so that it opens out into three separate songs. *Pessimist's* linchpin is a chord-change of such heart-warming glory that you'll find yourself beaming at your stereo and saying: "Awww, of course I'll marry you."

"It's our Being in a Band song," Reeves explains. "It's about wanting to get out of the gutter; about being greedy to eat the stars. But then I puncture my own optimism with the line: 'This is the highlight of your miserable life/A pessimist is never disappointed.'"

"Sometimes I think that my life over the past three months has been as good as it's ever going to get."

On the evidence of the audience's impeccable, three-single catalog, that's very unlikely.

● *A Pessimist is Never Disappointed* is released by Ellefse



Billie Myers: Despite a record deal in the States, she is still stunned to be appearing on *Top of the Pops* and in the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*

Billie's big adventure

Billie Myers is sitting in the bar of the Metropolitan Hotel in Park Lane. One of London's swankier B&Bs, it has come a distance since its 1960s incarnation as the Londonderry, when Jimi Hendrix was among its patrons.

Paul Sexton meets a Coventry lass short on sang-froid but reassuringly long on singer-songwriting talent

As we speak, the former nurse and insurance clerk from Coventry is one of the establishment's VIP guests, and needs a moment for a swift reality check. "It's really strange," she muses. "I used to walk past this hotel. I've been outside it when Madonna has walked in, and said to myself 'wouldn't it be great to stay at the Met?' I think the day you don't get excited about things like that, and about the limo-

we just don't sign maybes" — and if I ever pick up an award, I'll say it's for him.

"Record companies don't understand that they're holding your career, your life. It's not really about that 20-minute meeting you have, for some people it's about ten years of work. They don't even say yes or no, they leave you hanging in abeyance for a couple of months, and they're really got to stop that. I think their approach is unprofessional and arrogant. Maybe he's right, maybe I am a maybe. But there's no need to say that."

With *Kiss The Rain* selling extremely well and a strong debut album, *Growing Pains*, just around the corner, Myers is about as definite a maybe as you could hope to find. But she refuses to be overwhelmed by newfound confidence.

"The favourite statement I heard in England was 'we're not sure how to break female singer-songwriters', and you can't begrudge somebody not wanting to spend what, at the end of the day, would be three quarters of a million on a new artist. But it's how they do it that offends me."

"The worst brush-off I had was when this guy said 'Billie,

The worst brush-off was to be told they didn't sign maybes"

worked as a nurse. Now, at last, he could see something with an air of respectability about it. "The insurance company was not his idea of professional brilliance. But that brought me down to London, and then

I bought a flat, so at least he thought I was getting settled. I'd been going out with this guy for five years, everyone thought I was going to get married and I didn't. And then suddenly I wasn't working for an insurance company any more.

"When he heard that I'd been signed to EMI Music, I said to him, 'Dad, I'm a songwriter, that's what I'm being paid to do now — and if it doesn't work out, I can always go back into nursing.' So he wasn't worried."

Before she headed to the US and signed with Universal, Myers had endured a textbook saga of rejections from British record companies.

● *Kiss The Rain* is on Universal, which releases the album *Growing Pains* on April 20



"Life over the past three months has been as good as it's going to get," say the audience, pessimistic as ever

EMI CLASSICS

Andys Records
where music [really] matters

ROBERTO ALAGNA
Verdi | Arias

Following the outstanding international success of his debut solo album *Popular Tenor Arias* and the *Duets and Arias* CD with Angela Gheorghiu, this latest recital of favourite Verdi opera arias is most eagerly awaited.

"Here (Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic) are backing Roberto Alagna in his first Verdi set, and the combination works superbly... this is a top draw disc in which every word is made to count." THE TIMES

CLAUDIO ABBADO
Berliner Philharmoniker

HEAR IT NOW AT ALL ANDYS STORES...

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE BARRROW-IN-FURNESS BARNESLEY BEDFORD BEVERLEY BLACKBURN BOLTON BURY STEDMUNDS
CAMBRIDGE CANNOCK CHELMSFORD COLCHESTER DONCASTER GRIMSBY HALIFAX HEREFORD HULL IPSWICH KINGS LYNN
LANCASTER LICHFIELD LINCOLN LOUGHBOROUGH LOWESTOFT MANSFIELD NORWICH OLDHAM PETERBOROUGH PRESTON
ROCHDALE SCARBOROUGH SOUTHPORT SHEFFIELD-MEADOWHALL WAKEFIELD WARRINGTON WIGAN WORCESTER

UK'S BEST INDEPENDENT RETAILER 93 94 95 96 97

Jimmy Page Robert Plant

new single **most high** out now

سكنا في الألو

Butler's worst collaborator is himself

BERNARD BUTLER

People Move On (Creation CRECD 221P £15.99)

A ROCK guitarist with the promiscuous musical instincts of a jazz player, Bernard Butler has engaged in many reasons since his abrupt departure from Suede in 1994. From the brief marriage and bitter split with singer David McAlmont to mild flirtations with Paul Weller and the Verve, he has played the field, but failed to forge any lasting alliances. So, although he can boast one of the best-stocked address books in pop, this restless man's first solo album is just that: a collection of songs written, produced, sung and played (apart from drums and orchestral strings) entirely by Butler himself.

He has a capable if rather anonymous singing voice, which would sound better if he had not been associated with such great vocalists in the past. The swirling string introduction to *Not Alone*, for instance, is so reminiscent of his work on *The Sound of McAlmont and Butler* that you feel a bit cheated when McAlmont's wonderful, soaring falsetto fails to materialise.

A more serious shortcoming is Butler's lack of vision. Like most great side/session men he has tremendous musical savvy, but a poorly developed sense of where he is heading as an artist. His tendency on *People Move On* is to fall back on some surprisingly old-fashioned routines, from the big, slow opener, *Woman I Know*, based on Fleetwood Mac's *Albatross*, to the acoustic 1970s singer-songwriter style of *You Light My Fire*.

Most disappointing of all are the album's infrequent but consistently overblown instrumental passages, as on *When You Go* and the absurd finale of *Autograph*, in which the aggression and economy of

NEW POP ALBUMS

Butler's work with Suede is replaced by meaningless stretches of egotistical bluster. A lone, lush but ultimately lazy album, it is the sound of a man whose undoubted talent does not make up for an uncertain grasp of the plot.

BONNIE RAITT

Fundamental (Capitol 7243 8 56397 £16.49)

HAVING cleaned up her act in more ways than one, Bonnie Raitt relinquished her blues edge in favour of a smoother mainstream gloss on *Longing in their Hearts*, released four years ago. But, as the opening track on her new album suggests, it is time to "get back to the fundamental things".

At 48 Raitt is the oldest artist to have signed up for this year's Lilith Fair package tour of America, alongside the likes of Sheryl Crow, Paula Cole and Erykah Badu, and *Fundamental* shows just why she remains an inspiration to so many younger artists.

Co-produced by Mitchell Froom and Tchad Blake, who have worked in recent years with Crow, Richard Thompson and Crowded House, the album has a distinctively clanky feel with lots of dark, empty corners in the mix. There are one or two polite reggae and country-tinged numbers towards the end, but more typical is the deep-blues menace of *Cure for Love* and Raitt's soulful vocal and aching slide guitar solos in a gorgeous version of John Hiatt's *Lover's Will*.

After a period away from the spotlight, Raitt now sounds as hot as the painful metaphor on which *Spit of Love* hinges: "I'm calling on the Furies to let the toast

begin/I'm roasting on that spit of love again".

PREACHER BOY

Crow (Wah'tup WAHTCD002 £13.99)

THE world of drunks, drop-outs and derelicts inhabited by troubadours such as Tom Waits and Nick Cave continues to exert a mighty pull on the imagination of younger acts. But, as *Preacher Boy* demonstrate on *Crow*, it is not a place for dabblers.

Led by the San Francisco singer, guitarist and interactive designer Christopher Watkins, the band proves reasonably adept at a range of idioms — country, jazz, blues and even a tango — but fails to lock on to a recognisable style of its own. Watkins's unbelievably gravelly voice provides a distinctive musical signature, but his self-consciously Waitsian delivery sounds more contrived the more you hear it. "You'll find me at the bottom of a whiskey glass," he growls in *Richmond*, but this album is more low-alcohol lager than hard stuff.

RICHARD DAVIES

Telegraph (Blue Rose/V2 BRRC1001152 £14.99)

WITH his whimsical, leftfield tunes and nonsense lyrics, Richard Davies is practically a walking definition of a 1990s cult act. Formerly of Australian art-rock combo the Moles and then the Boston-based Baroque-pop duo Cardinal, he has risen to a position of marginal celebrity by dint of sheer persistence as much as anything else.

Telegraph passes by pleasantly enough, but adds little to our knowledge of him — or anything else. Whether banging out the uptempo road narrative of *Cantina* or lingering over the stately descending sequence of *Days to Remember* he maintains an artful poise without ever nailing his colours to any particular stylistic or philosophical mast.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (6) Best of... James (Fontana)
- (2) Titanic Soundtracks (Sony Classical)
- (1) Let's Talk About Love... Celine Dion (Epic)
- (4) Life Through a Lens... Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
- (3) Ray of Light... Madonna (Maverick)
- (5) This Is Hardcore... Pulp (Island)
- (7) Urban Hymns... Verve (Hut)
- (17) Fresco... M People (M People)
- (8) Left of the Middle... Natalie Imbruglia (RCA)
- (9) In My Life... George Martin (Echo)

Copyright © 1998. Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

MILES DAVIS

Miles Davis Quintet 1965-68 (Columbia 67398)

COVERING the three-year period spanned by the albums *E.S.P.* and *Filles de Kilimanjaro*, this six-CD set collects all the studio recordings, alternate and rehearsal takes included, made by one of Miles Davis's most influential line-ups: tenor player Wayne Shorter, pianist Herbie Hancock, bassist Ron Carter and drummer Tony Williams.

Davis told Hancock before making *E.S.P.*: "I don't want to play chords any more", and the music on that and subsequent albums — *Miles Smiles*, *Sorcerer* and *Nefertiti* chief among them — opened up a musical territory frequently characterised by the phrase "time — no changes" that is still being explored by jazz musicians today. With, in

Miles ahead of the rest

JAZZ ALBUMS

Davis's words. Shorter as "the conceptualiser", Hancock and Carter as "the anchors", Williams "the fire, the creative spark" and Davis as "the inspiration and wisdom", these albums sound as fresh, exhilarating and challenging today as when they were first made, 30 years ago.

GRANT GREEN

Idle Moments (Blue Note 784 1541)

THE St Louis-born guitarist's

finest hour, this 1963 album is an example of late-night jazz at its best, now reissued on vinyl complete with facsimile sleeve and part of a series that also includes Joe Henderson's *Page One*, Art Blakey's *Mosaic*, Freddie Hubbard's *Hub-tones* and — the most adventurous of a classy bunch — Eric Dolphy's legendary *Out to Lunch*.

Green was sucked into light pop-funk in much of his 1970s work, but this four-track masterpiece finds him doing what he does best: fronting a wonderfully laid-back but always alert rhythm section alongside Henderson's tenor and Bobby Hutcherson's vibes.

Never a showy player, relying instead on relaxed, soulful lucidity for his considerable effect, Green should be better known than he is.

CHRIS PARKER



Without Brett Anderson, without David McAlmont, Bernard Butler has to rely on his own devices on *People Move On*

All that glitters is Goldner

George Goldner was the type of record executive you don't find nowadays. A former dance teacher, he was a wheeler and dealer who was blessed with the ability to pick out a hit tune at 50 yards. He was also a compulsive gambler who made thousands from the records he put out in the States in the Fifties and Sixties and then managed to lose most of it. His career in the record business came to an end a few years before his death in 1970 when he borrowed money off the Mafia — and then had difficulty paying it back.

But what Goldner did leave — apart from debts — was some of the best rhythm and blues to be heard in New York, a lot of which has recently resurfaced on CD. His Fifties labels, *Gene*, *End* and *Gene* among them, specialised in close harmony vocal groups. The best known were perhaps

BLUES ALBUMS

The Flamingos, originally from Chicago, who climbed the charts in 1959 with an inspired version of the standard, *I Only Have Eyes For You*. Art Garfunkel was to have a hit with a note for note cover of the arrangement 16 years later. It can be heard along with 23 other tracks on a reissue on a single CD of two Flamingos albums, *Flamingo Serenade* and *Flamingo Favourites* (Westside WESM 532). Not far behind in popularity were Little Anthony and the Imperials, whose *Tears On My Pillow*, available on *We Are The Imperials/Shades of the 40s* (Westside WESM 556), was later revived by Kylie Minogue. The other vocal group collections available include albums by the all-female Chantels (Westside WESM 564) and the still-active Cletones (WESM 546).

In the Sixties he moved into the girl group and soul market with the labels *Red Bird* and *Blue Cat* which he ran with writers and producers Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Again the material was first rate: *The Boy From New York City* by the *Ad Libs*, *Chapel of Love* by the *Dixie Cups* and one of the finest soul records ever made, the majestic *Go Now* by *Bessie Banks*, covered over here by the *Moody Blues*. All those plus many other great tracks form part of an ongoing series called the *Red Bird Sound*. The first volume (Diamond GEMCD003) covers the girl groups, the second (GEMCD 017) the R&B material, including eight tracks by underrated New Orleans singer Alvin Robinson, and the third (GEMCD 019) the rarer cuts. All are worth investigating.

JASON NISSÉ

JOHN CLARKE

Melville's night of sensational sax

Last month a whirlwind hit the Golden City. At the Bassline, a wine bar in Johannesburg's trendy suburb of Melville, one of the few venues in the city that could actually claim to be integrated, a nervous, young saxophonist stepped on to the tiny stage and blew the crowd away. On the same night as mourners in Cape Town were attending the funeral of Basil Coetzee, one of the best-known ambassadors of "township jazz", Moses Khumalo announced himself as Coetzee's worthy successor.

Few who were at the Bassline that night would disagree with this. Khumalo, 19 years old and wearing what looked like his elder brother's hand-me-down jumper, was not even the main attraction. He was a sideman for Moses Taiwa Molelekwa, the pianist who many deem the new Abdullah Ibrahim, whose great band of the 1960s and 1970s featured Coetzee. And it was an Ibrahim song, *Mannenberg*, played as a tribute to Coetzee, which was the torch that Khumalo ignited.

Until then the young saxophonist sounded promising, but his solos had been a little reserved, as if he felt unable to cut loose in the unfamiliar surroundings of a wealthy, white suburb. He was growing in confidence as the gig progressed until it came to his solo in *Mannenberg*, and then he let rip. Notes flew from the horn as if it was being wielded by a latter-day Charlie Parker. Khumalo leant forward, eyes closed, as though in a trance. People began clapping and getting to their feet. But the real moment of magic came only when Khumalo had finished and shuffled to the back of the stage behind Molelekwa.

The audience chanted for his return, insisting that he encore even before the next soloist — the trumpeter Prince Lengosa — could begin. Khumalo stepped back to centre stage and launched a stream of notes even higher into the stratosphere. Those at

the back stopped and stared. Those at the front clapped and roared encouragement. A steady stream of black men walked up to the stage and stuck 10, 20 and 50-rand notes into Khumalo's jumper and horn as if it were a jam session in a Soweto shebeen.

Khumalo played as though his life depended on it, and when he stopped playing it was as though he had been wrung dry, as though he were taller and stronger with the sax in his mouth than without it. The other band members looked pleased just to be in his

company. Crowd members asked whether he had a recording contract — he doesn't — and when he would be playing again. When he makes the trip to the UK, I want to be there.

Andys Records
where music [reality] matters!

RUTTER REQUIEM

Stephen Cleobury


This long-awaited disc combines two great Cambridge talents of John Rutter and the Choir of King's College. The result is a truly beautiful, stirring and memorable CD. Also features — What Sweeter Music and Cantus, written for the King's College Choir; Veni Sancte Spiritus, written specifically for this recording.

HEAR IT NOW AT ALL ANDYS STORES "EXHILARATING" GRAMOPHONE

Ashton-under-Lyne Barrow-in-Furness Barnsley Bedford Beverley Blackburn Bolton Bury St Edmunds Cambridge Camock Chesham Colchester Doncaster Grimsby Halifax Hereford Hull Ipswich Kings Lynn Lancaster Lichfield Lincoln Loughborough Lowestoft Mansfield Norwich Oldham Peterborough Preston Rochdale Scarborough Southport Sheffield-Meadowhall Wakefield Warrington Wigan Worcester

UK'S BEST INDEPENDENT RETAILER 93.94.95.96.97

PULP



THIS IS PULP

The album out now

Marcus Binney leaves through a comprehensive guide to Britain's design talents of tomorrow

The stock of the new

Britain's architects top the world - only Japan can boast as many revered names. Yet who are the Forsters and Grimshaws of tomorrow...



The Pitcher & Piano on Newcastle quayside, a stunning creation by Panter Hudspitt

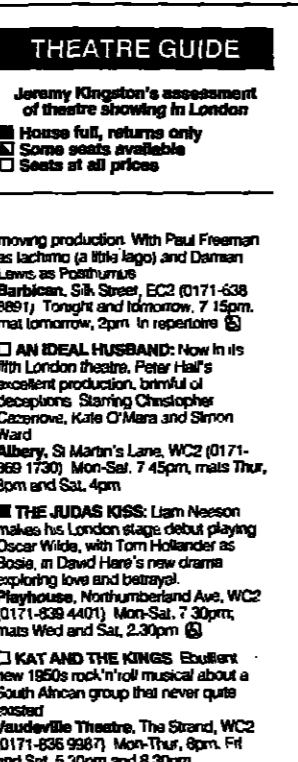
The good news from this book is that talented young architects are as numerous outside London as in. For sheer sophistication and urban banality...

lar Bridges exhibition at the Royal Academy. For some Coates, try Manchester's Harison Inc, whose bars and restaurants are a flamboyant revolt against what they call the Chef-and-Brewerage...

Architecture Foundation, which commissioned the book, is an unashamed champion of the modern. The most notable omission is the brilliant Richard Pierce of Northern Ireland...

LONDON THE ICEMAN COMETH: Eugene O'Neill's long but magnificent drama on the comforts of self-deception...

WEEKEND CHOICE A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mari Hargis



Rupert Graves treads the boards at the Almeida

SECC, Finsbury St (011 246 3000) Tomorrow and Sun, doors open 6pm

LETTER OF RESIGNATION: Edward Fox and Claire Higgins play Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Polio epidemic...

AMT'S VIEW: Jud Danch and Samira Bond play a riveting and hilarious comedy about the hazards of contemporary life...

NEW RELEASES NURDUNG (12) Martin Scorsese's singular and beautiful film about the early life of the Dalai Lama...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) across the country

LONG RUNNERS Blood Brothers (011 359 1733) The Godfather Part II (011 490 8800)

No, the South Bank isn't dead

Simon Tait finds renewed hope among the urban regenerators down Waterloo way

Only eight weeks remain to decide how redevelopment around London's South Bank Centre should proceed...

The freeze the Arts Council put on all SBC-associated work has been out of synch with the successful piecemeal developments around the Centre...

ART GALLERIES PARKIN GALLERY 18 9 April Michael Cook Works on Paper

THEATRES ALDOWICH 011 416 6083 cc 244 4444

CAMBRIDGE 04 500416 0000 344 444420 0000 (+10p fee)

GARRICK 011 494 505312 1950 494 5388 (no big fee)

LONDON PALLADIUM 011 494 503044 4444 (big fee)

PHOENIX 011 359 1733 359 1733 (big fee)

QUEENSBURY 011 494 503044 4444 (big fee)

ENTERTAINMENTS 298,000 readers of this section go to the theatre at least once every 2/3 months.

Defence can challenge validity of bylaw Accumulation of gaming prizes is lawful

Boddington v British Transport Police
Before Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann

Mr Francis Jones for the defendant; Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Nicholas Ainley for the prosecution; Mr Jonathan Caplan, QC and Mr Ian Burnett as amici curiae.

No distinction was to be drawn between a patent, or substantive, error of law or a latent, or procedural, error of law.

Regina v Burt and Adams Ltd
Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hope of Craighead.

The player obtained a benefit or advantage which was not permitted by section 34(3).

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Peter James Boddington, against the dismissal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (The Times July 23, 1996) of his appeal by case stated from his conviction by a Brighton Magistrate on July 28, 1995 for smoking a cigarette in a railway carriage...

The House of Lords in Anisimic Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission [1969] 2 AC 147 made obsolete the historic distinction between errors of law of fact of the record and other errors of law.

That was a topic on which there was confusing and contradictory dicta. It was not possible to review the subject in detail in the present case.

But prominent notices told the players that prizes might also be exchanged for merchandise and for that purpose they had a 100 point value.

Moreover, there was no discernible policy against the exchange of any non-monetary prize for another non-monetary prize within the same premises.

Landlord's consent treated as unreasonably withheld

Storehouse Properties Ltd and Others v Ocobase Ltd
Before Mr Justice Rimer
[Judgment March 19]

consent, except in a case where it is not reasonable to give consent.

It was in his Lordship's view that the question arises whether it was reasonable for him not to do so, to show that it was reasonable.

Francisco v Diederick
Where a plaintiff had shown a prima facie case against a defendant, the effect of the defendant's decision not to give evidence in his own defence meant the case was proved on the balance of probabilities.

he was desperate to speak to her on the day she died, that he had used violence against her in the past, that he had no alibi for the morning of the murder and that he had lied to the police in interview.

Court not bound by patent office rejection

Buehler AG v Chronos Richardson Ltd
Before Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Aldous
[Judgment March 20]

Patent (UK) No 25622 in their defence and counterclaim the plaintiffs' infringement proceedings.

There was a more fundamental reason why no estoppel arose.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES
TRUSTEE ACTS
LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVERS

Classifying air rifles as firearms

Castle (John) v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment March 12]

July 7, 1997 of possession of a firearm, namely an air rifle, on a date within five years of his release from prison contrary to section 21(1) of the Firearms Act 1968.

Mr Lowe's evidence and in the absence of specific evidence as to the effect of firing pellets from those types of rifle.

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVERS

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVERS

سكندرية من الالهي

The secret face of Berlusconi



Rupert Murdoch: deal called off

The continuing obsession of some sections of the British press with Rupert Murdoch's attempt to buy an Italian television company has had a surprising aspect — an almost total absence of background detail about the company itself, Mediaset, as well as its founder, Silvio Berlusconi.

Why did Signor Berlusconi change his mind at the last minute — and what were his reasons for selling in the first place? And wasn't this the self-made billionaire about whom some British journalists worked themselves into a lather when he was briefly Italy's Prime Minister in 1994? He was presented then as that most cherished hate figure of the Left, the media mogul who attempts to subvert a democratic nation by brainwashing its people with slick television fodder.

The lurid accounts of Berlusconi's media empire and political agenda, first painted by his Italian political and business opponents — and then taken up by much of the British media — were always rather wide of the mark. Although aided immensely in his electoral campaign by free and unlimited access to his own three TV stations and various printed publications, it was of little use to him once in power.

Forza Italia, the centre-right party he established, and which he still leads in opposition, is frequently portrayed as being interchangeable with Fininvest (his umbrella holding company). While many of his closest business associates have followed him into politics, most have not, and indeed quite a few have been sceptical of his political ambitions, without any loss of company position.

Since the 61-year-old Berlusconi (his Milanese nickname) entered politics, Mediaset has been run with a group of associates and family members, headed by his closest childhood friend, 60-year-old Fedele Confalonieri, with whom he has frequently been at odds.

The combination of being publicly quoted on Milan's stock exchange (49.4 per cent of Mediaset shares are owned by a mixture of international media specialists) and the American-inspired logic of "going where the money is"



What prompted a self-made media billionaire and former Italian Prime Minister to call off the sale of his TV interests at the last minute? William Ward unravels the riddle of Silvio Berlusconi

(Confalonieri's mantra) has increasingly led the company to clash with the political interests of its founder.

In many respects, Fininvest-Mediaset have become an albatross for him, undermining his strategies, while leaving him still accused of a conflict of interest. Here lies the main consideration for selling.

Far from Mediaset being a propaganda vehicle for his ideas (it is frequently described in Italy as being *la voce del padrone* (His Master's Voice) almost all of its leading editorial figures maintain a critical distance, while some are downright hostile. Both of the most influential figures on his flagship channel, Canale 5,

are openly supportive of the centre-left Government, and ill-disposed towards Forza Italia.

Enrico Mentana, the editor and main anchorman of *Canale 5 News*, and Maurizio Costanzo, Italy's most influential talk show host, make no attempt to conceal their critical views, which carry far more weight among viewers than those of the right-wing anchorman Paolo Liguori and Emilio Fede, of Mediaset's minor channels, Italia 1 and Rete 4.

Berlusconi's complaint that "*Canale 5 News* keeps giving me such a hard time" has become a regular refrain, but is a fair assessment of the truth.

Likewise, Italy's leading satirist,

Antonio Ricci, devotes much of his nightly show *Striscia la Notizia* to mocking his employer. The petulant Berlusconi may whinge, but he is a businessman enough to realise that where there is mockery, there is gold.

Life is no more comfortable for Berlusconi at Mondadori, the country's largest publishing group (of which Fininvest owns 45 per cent), and publishers of Italy's leading weekly news magazine, *Panorama*, as well as his two daily newspapers, *Il Giornale* and *Il Foglio*.

In a country whose media is overwhelmingly slanted leftwards, they are almost the only serious titles to glance the other way. When Berlusconi appointed

his close political ally Giuliano Ferrara, Editor of *Foglio*, as Editor of the formerly Left-leaning *Panorama*, the news magazine's union chapel welcomed him with a resounding vote of no confidence. Only when Ferrara had demonstrated to his new workforce his editorial independence did the newsroom atmosphere improve.

"*Panorama's* editorial autonomy is an enormous asset, worth at least £10 million profit a year, which Berlusconi clearly has no interest in interfering with," says the co-editor, Massimo Donelli. "Lots of people in Italy say, 'oh, you're just a Berlusconi man', but that is nonsense, we say just what we like. Just try looking for a criticism of De Benedetti in *La*

Repubblica (the left-wing daily mostly owned by the former Olivetti boss Carlo De Benedetti).

This week's issue contains an interview with Confalonieri, in which he explains Mediaset's side of the "Murdoch affair", by Stella Fendle. Confalonieri is an unusually reserved man; but Fendle's slightly menacing style gets him opening up to a surprising extent.

According to Confalonieri, it was above all the boss's two oldest children, Marina, who at 31 is already deputy president of Fininvest, and Piersivo, 29, the operating manager of the three Mediaset TV channels, who rooted for their father to keep the firm in the family. Also, few key Mediaset or Fininvest figures (above all, the left-wing ones, such as Mentana and Costanzo) were keen to face an uncertain future in the hands of an *anglosassone* owner. Yesterday Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, agreed entirely with the version of events coming out of Italy. "There was no question in my mind that he wanted to sell and that he wanted to devote his life to politics. The conflict of interest issue was fundamental," Mr Murdoch said.

The News Corp chairman said the factors that led Silvio Berlusconi to change his mind included a poll of his supporters, who said they did not want him to sell and there was strong pressure from his children. "He came to London last Saturday to apologise to me and we remain good friends. I think that's it — although Italy's always a moving situation," Mr Murdoch said.

Berlusconi may proclaim himself a Thacherite, but he's never sacked a soul," admitted a staff member at Mediaset last week. "Most of us loathe his politics and find him personally a bit of a creep, but he's one of the best bosses in Italy."

Ferrara says: "He's always toying with the idea of selling, and in many respects this looked like the right bid. I've been urging him for years to sell up and he sees the logic in it perfectly."

He may have gained some marginal political capital with the Left by holding back — a sort of patriotic gesture to conserve Italian jobs and creativity from the clutches of world market forces — but that's not really the point. Deep down, he simply doesn't want to part with anything. Look at his track record. He's spent his whole career creating companies out of nothing and buying up others. He's never sold out a single thing in his life."

As Ferrara sees it: "The real hypocrisy and incoherence here is not Berlusconi pulling back at the last moment, but with the Italian Left which for years has made the project of putting him out of business into a holy crusade.

"All of a sudden, just as he is poised to 'do the decent thing' by himself, they discover he's actually 'on the side of the angels' and his media empire, until now, the work of the devil, is a living national treasure to be cherished."

William Ward corresponds from London for *Panorama* and *Il Foglio*.

Scratch game is clawed

GERALD KAUFMAN put the boot into the BBC's new scratchcard lottery show last week, denouncing its entanglement with Camelot as "seedy". So what did the chairman of the parliamentary Media and Culture Select Committee make of *The Big Ticker's* first outing last Saturday? Kaufman was not among the seven to ten million people tuned in to the 50-minute programme. "I was on my way to York on a previous engagement... It was the concept I was criticising... Perhaps the BBC should pop a tape in the post?"



back party political broadcasts, and drop the Chancellor's traditional Budget broadcast. The scheme, supported by broadcasters, has run into flak, with Peter Mandelson leading the Government opposition. What happens now? Something has to be thrashed out because of the creation of regional parliaments, all requiring airtime. The interesting thing is that the reasonable proposal met with such bad publicity. The reformers lost the PR battle from the first leak in *The Guardian*.

The BBC is also facing heavy artillery for its refusal to woo children to radio, by dropping teatime serials from Radio 4's new schedule, starting next Monday. But I hear Roger Mosey, Radio 3 Live's Controller, has just approached Lorraine Heggessey, the new head of BBC Children's Programmes. He wants to drum up new strands for children such as *Newsround*-style current affairs and topical discussions. A new analysis of audience ratings has shown that half a million children under the age of 14 — mainly sports-mad boys — listen to 5 Live regularly. Proof that children will eagerly lap up radio, not just pop, if the programmes are interesting.

thing. He says he advised the BBC to opt for royal blue and gold, only to meet with a veto from the Controller James Boyle, who said that was far too traditional; hence that turquoise. But Lambie-Nairn got his way elsewhere. The new Radio 4 style includes stylised little yellow lightbulbs, around its title, used like quotation marks. Lambie-Nairn sees them as symbols of enlightenment. When did he last change a lightbulb?

SEISMIC changes are under way, yet again, at *The Observer*. The Guardian Media Group board and the trustees met this week. It appears that Jocelyn Targett, deputy editor, is to be bumped up to executive editor, to mastermind (yet another features-led) relaunch of the title this autumn. Will Hutton, Editor, will concentrate on comment. But who will be worrying about the core of the paper, hard news?

BROADSHEET newspapers have been dripping all week with Radio 4 publicity leaflets, preaching the virtues of its new schedule. They are in a grim turquoise colour, Radio 4's new livery. Martin Lambie-Nairn, the denim-clad designer entrusted with the BBC's image, including the new floating globe, sounds pretty choked about the whole

EXPECT a fierce bout of lobbying over proposals to Government to remove domestic Test Matches from protected "listed events" status, along with the two weeks run up to Wimbledon. Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, and second most powerful BBC executive (he will deputise for John Birt when he goes on holiday this Easter) says the BBC — the real loser from the proposals now with Chris Smith, Culture, Media and Sport Secretary — will fight back and bid for rights to Test matches. He also points out that the proposal to give limited protection for national teams in World Cup matches is deeply flawed: it only means that a fixture involving, say, Scotland's team is "free to air" in Scotland, even if the rest of the UK is rooting for them.

CHANNEL 4's new chairman, Gianni Treves, has finally concluded the search for worthy new non-executive directors, to fill posts vacant since December. The first two, to be announced next week, are Andrew Graham, economist, and acting Master of Balliol College, Oxford, and Joe Signor, who heads the Dillons and Hatchard book chains and was recently courted by the BBC to take over as chief executive of its BBC World commercial arm. Bert Hardy, chief executive of *The European* and *Sunday Business*, will serve just this year as deputy Channel 4 chairman, before a replacement is found.



Farewell: Sir David Attenborough retires in 2000

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH is expected to retire from television with the millennium, aged 75, after a massive final series, on the state of the planet. The BBC's nightmare is that it has no one to take his place. This may explain why production executives Ron Nell and Jana Bennet are delighted that Alastair Fothergill, the Harrow-educated naturalist head of the BBC's natural history unit in Bristol, is quitting bureaucracy to return to programme-making. Personable, enthusiastic, and good-looking, he may be groomed to move in front of camera. Fothergill says: "I decided to step down when I was in South Georgia earlier this year. I was doing the BBC annual performance review on my laptop when an albatross came along and started pecking at me. It summed up the choice. I prefer being with the albatross." It is a career path similar to Sir David's, who quit as director of programmes nearly 30 years ago to go to the chimps. Will Fothergill step in front of the camera? Perhaps. "I know that's what they are thinking."

Europe faces up to the digital future

John Howkins on the vital issues facing a conference next week

After a few false starts, Britain will have digital television later this year, pouring down from hill-top transmitters and from satellites. Most homes that subscribe to it will have computers, almost all of which will be connected to the Internet — and, of course, computers and the Internet are already digital. The result is a heady cocktail of technological convergence, business opportunities, and regulatory conundrums.

Every four years or so the European Commission holds an audiovisual conference to invite the industry to discuss what is new and review European policies. This year the event takes place in Birmingham next week, with the British Government as co-host, working with the British Screen Council.

The idea is simple. Invite 350 top people from Europe's TV, film and new media industries, put them in working groups, and see what happens. Also attending are about 100 representatives of European governments and the EU. Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, will be addressing the conference at lunchtime on Monday.

This year's headline topics are multichannel digital television and the Internet. Digital television raises issues of competition policy and fair play. For example, who will operate the new digital platforms? Should a company that makes such a high-risk investment be allowed a dominant position? To what extent should the European Commission and governments impose standards on the black boxes

Next week
Like father like son — Sir Harry Secombe's son launches a comedy show on the Internet

Book marker
The book mentioned last Friday in the article by Cynthia Kee, *How to get into Print*, is called *The Crack in the Tea-Cup*, by Cynthia Kee, published by NLJ at £10.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

MEET NICK HORNBY

Nick Hornby, the best-selling author of *Fever Pitch* and *High Fidelity*, will be talking about his new novel, *About a Boy*, at a Times/Dillons Forum. Hornby will read extracts from the book and answer readers' questions about his work.

Chaired by Lynne Truss, *Times* columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

NICK HORNBY FORUM

Please book me — tickets at £10 and/or — tickets at £7.50 (ones) for The Times/Dillons Nick Hornby Forum on Tuesday April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DAY PHONE No. _____ POSTCODE _____

I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore

Value £ _____ Cheque number _____

(Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Credit / Bank Debit / Dillons-Hatchards account card number _____

Expiry date _____/_____/_____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please post coupon and remittance to:
The Times/Dillons Nick Hornby Forum
Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ
Tel: 0171-467 1613. Fax: 0171-467 1690

* Please note that tickets will be posted until March 30 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. Please call 0171-636 1577 to confirm your booking.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Ticket number _____ Date sent _____

Baby, you're a gourmet

Virginia Matthews on the sophisticated recipes battling for infant tastebuds

Vegetable and bean pilau, chicken chow mein and paella are to take centre stage in a multimillion-pound marketing battle for the tastebuds of some of Britain's faddiest eaters.

Cow & Gate, one of the top three names in the £100 million infant-meals market, is swapping traditional nursery fare of lamb casserole and rice pudding for gourmet recipes that owe more to five-star adult cookery than to trainer breakers and high chairs.

This sortie into the "enfant cuisine" sector comes hard on the heels of recent introductions such as haute-cuisine chilled ready meals for babies, now available in Safeway and Waitrose, and 100 per cent organic recipes for the "greener" infant and his foodie parent.

Next month Cow & Gate will launch a £1.5 million television, press and direct-mail campaign to back its new range. Though some of the recipes sound familiar — cauliflower cheese and fruit crumble are still the big sellers — its new products include less familiar tastes, such as sage and turkey pot au feu, or vegetable and salmon gratin, followed by Caribbean fruit fool or strawberry dream.

Heinz, too, is investing in "grown-up" baby food: Heinz Junior Cuisine will be backed by consumer press advertising from May. Aimed at babies over 12 months, the recipes include vegetables and rice in mild sweet and sour sauce and pasta in a



Never too young to be a foodie: babies now have a choice of gourmet recipes

creamy bacon and cheese sauce.

Cow & Gate's marketing director, Jeff Halfwell, says the aim is to "challenge the conventional wisdom that babies should be fed the blandest foods and then only in a pureed form".

Nutritionists have argued that seven-month-old palates are insufficiently developed to handle tastes as strong as herbs and spices, or even foods with different textures, but Cow & Gate and others believe that by introducing new tastes at an early age, babies are less likely to become fussy eaters later on.

The business ethos of such a trend is equally clear, a Mintel report shows.

The market forecaster says that though falling birthrates could affect volume sales of baby foods, higher disposable incomes and more working mothers mean a greater demand for premium lines, such as flavoured spring waters and more exotic ready meals.

Some leading cooks are also investigating the bids and bottles sector. Mark Hix, the executive chef at La Caprice and The Ivy, acts as a consultant to the Glasgow-based Original

Fresh Babyfood Company, which markets Britain's only range of freshly-prepared chilled baby meals for supermarkets. The range, which retails at £1.29 for a 175g microwavable pot, includes sweet potato and carrot with a hint of cinnamon, for babies under four months, and baked fish with fennel and potato or mushroom with sweet pepper risotto, for mature diners of seven months-plus.

Hix's current project for the Original company is a Christmas banquet — complete with turkey breast, fresh cranberries, onion and sage — for infant foodies. Babies under seven months will be offered a medley of seasonal vegetables.

Belinda Mitchell, who, with her husband, Keith, owns and runs the Original company, which had a turnover of £250,000 last year, says: "We knew parents wanted to feed their babies and toddlers the freshest, most natural foods, but we had no idea the demand would be so huge."

The company markets its range to those affluent parents who dislike traditional baby food in cans or jars but are too busy to prepare fresh food themselves.

It says it will step up production and extend distribution to other supermarkets later this year when it opens its first wholly owned manufacturing plant.

Mitchell believes at least two of the bigger names in babyfood are studying the potential of upmarket chilled meals, though as Jeff Halfwell points out: "There could be concerns over the microbiological safety of [such] meals, not at the point of production, but when products are taken home and put in insufficiently chilled fridges."

"But I wouldn't rule out Cow & Gate launching such a range in the future."

The BBC gives MPs a long wave goodbye

Things are absolutely normal at the BBC at the moment. The corporation is facing attacks from politicians and critics that it has abandoned its public service responsibilities, is possibly in breach of its royal charter, and is certainly guilty of an overbearing arrogance and unwillingness to listen.

There is more than an element of truth in the allegations and there probably always will be. A BBC devoid of arrogance and willing to pay attention to the views of its licence-payers would be unrecognisable. Unfortunately, in recent weeks the corporation has been criticised far too much and far too unfairly for some things, and not harshly enough for others. On the charge of undermining public morals, taste, decency and civilisation by running a lottery scratch-card gameshow on Saturday nights with a prize of £100,000, it is emphatically not guilty. It is ironic that the main attacks have come from politicians — often the same ones who voted for the introduction of a National Lottery in the first place.

The only point of any importance is this: since the UK has decided to have a National Lottery whose primary function is to raise money for good causes — and as part of that process has introduced scratch-cards — then a programme about it, if carefully judged, is a perfectly legitimate thing to show. The programme shown on Saturday night was a perfectly respectable example of the genre.

Since the lottery is legal, there can be little objection to filling the audience and choosing the contestants from the ranks of scratch-card winners. It is exactly what happens with other lotteries and public service broadcasters, such as RTE in Ireland. The BBC went one step further and included representatives of the good causes in the audience and among the contestants who could donate their winnings to their causes if they wanted.

The truth is that many opinion-formers still feel uneasy about having a National Lottery at all, while they are perfectly happy to have the Royal Opera House refurbished from its coffers. Yet if the BBC has been pilloried unfairly over its gameshow, which would probably have met Independent Television Commission rules for ITV, it has not been criticised nearly enough for the disgraceful decision, confirmed yesterday, to dump parliamentary programmes such as *Yesterday in Parliament*, on to long-

wave. For an organisation funded by compulsory licence fee it is difficult to imagine a more central public purpose than giving appropriate coverage to Parliament. And appropriate means, in this context, broadcasting the programmes at times and on wavelengths where they are most likely to be heard. The only explanation for the relatively muted response from Parliament is that MPs have been bamboozled by the BBC management which has wrung its hands in mock despair and claimed the problem is that listeners simply switch off when the parliamentarians come on. The facts do not seem to bear this out.

Yesterday in Parliament, as part of the *Today* programme, gets a regular audience of 1.3 million. During the course of the programme listeners do, of course, desert, but that might be because they are leaving for work. One of the strengths of including *Yesterday in Parliament* is that it attracts an audience who might otherwise

not be interested in politics. It is fairly easy to predict what will happen to the audience of *Yesterday in Parliament* when the programme moves after Easter. One third of Radio 4's audience listens on long-wave now and about 20 per cent may not be able to hear it at all, although the BBC denies this. Even for many who can, the sound quality is poor. After the change, *Yesterday in Parliament* will be lucky if it retains half of its current audience.

As a further part of the BBC's campaign to explain democratic proceedings to the populace, it is moving *The Week in Westminster*, with an audience of 700,000, to a graveyard slot on Thursday evenings. To complete its overwhelming commitment to public-service broadcasting, the BBC is dropping as a discrete programme *In Committee*, which on Sunday evenings attracts 250,000 listeners — 97 per cent of whom rate it as "good".

Naturally, all this has been portrayed by BBC spin-doctors as an extension of parliamentary coverage simply because the hours of coverage have been increased. The likely outcome is a large net loss of listeners. The BBC should be ashamed of itself — although it has committed itself to a review in 12 months when the damage will already have been done. Doubtless, Parliament will one day take its revenge — when the MPs finally wake.



Raymond Snoddy

A brighter picture from Channel 5

A YEAR since its launch, Channel 5 has achieved its highest monthly share of national viewing — about 3.9 per cent. And its broadcasting reach should increase by up to 1 million homes, thanks to a new transmitter switched on last week to serve more than 70,000 homes in South London. David Elstein writes.

In the summer, a quadrupling of the power at our main Croydon transmitter will send a good-quality signal to thousands of homes in the London region, and improve picture quality for a similar number. Other plans are in hand for improving CS's 70 per cent reach. Signal boosters are being marketed to households with "snowy" pictures to improve reception and tuning-in campaigns are being run in areas where reported reach is below predicted levels. There are probably 10 per

cent of homes within range of CS who are waiting for a video retuner to call (in the mistaken belief that video returning is an essential preliminary to viewing CS) or do not know that a new channel has to be tuned in on the TV before it can be watched. Reach will continue to grow as cable and satellite bring new customers, delivering a good quality picture automatically to every home. Digital

terrestrial will put CS on an equal footing with other terrestrial channels, both in reach and picture quality. Every year, more than 1 million homes install a new outdoor aerial — again, an ideal opportunity to bring CS into homes within range of our transmitters. Programming and scheduling will continue to improve. We are also constantly measuring schedule effectiveness.

Would a show do better on a different night or in a different slot? Are we maximising audience flow? Scheduling is part science, part instinct, part trial and error. What the channel needs is not peaks and troughs but optimised schedule performance. Only that will help us to overcome our technical handicaps. The author is Chief Executive of Channel 5.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 4481

MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

FAX: 0171 782 7826

An exemplary reputation demands exemplary management

Director of Media Relations

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND INDIA

Excellent salary + benefits

London-based

The world's leading management and technology consulting organisation is currently seeking to recruit a highly experienced media relations professional. Effective media management is crucial to this firm's reputation and will continue to play a key role in its image development.

You will report to the Director of Marketing and Communications for the area, and the Worldwide Director of Media Relations based in the USA. Your brief will be to enhance the firm's reputation through the development and enhancement of media relations strategies and their adaptation into area wide programmes.

Operating across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India, you will use your media relations expertise to drive firm-wide marketing initiatives and executive communications. You will also be responsible for developing rapid response strategies to any possible crisis situation. From time to time, you will serve as an official spokesperson for the firm and will regularly provide strategic direction to outside agency resources.

You will possess a proven track record in high profile media relations with at least ten years' experience gained in a corporate environment or PR agency. High level media contacts, in both the UK and Europe would be a distinct advantage. An exemplary communicator, on paper and in person, you'll possess the necessary people management, leadership and influencing skills to quickly gain professional credibility at all levels. Broad business insight is essential, as is the ability to work in a fast-paced complex and evolving global business environment.

If you're ready for the challenge of leading an international media relations operation within a highly reputable organisation, please send a full curriculum vitae, quoting reference TR160, to the advising consultants at Talisman Research International, River Wing, Latimer Park, Latimer, Gresham, Bucks. HP5 1TT. Fax: 01-34 546622. Tel: 01494 546600. E-mail: Louise.Edwards@talisman.co.uk

A dynamic role with a clear focus on Customer Service, Product and Market Development...

MARKETING/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

International Software House

We are the leading supplier of information management systems for toxicology and pathology applications, used in pharmaceutical/agrochemical research. We offer market leading solutions that address issues of time to market, quality and GLP compliance for our global customers. These products are supported by unrivalled development skills and a pool of applications knowledge that ensures a dedicated and focused service.

We seek an experienced and innovative business professional to address current agendas: Customer Service — evaluating and improving current performance and developing new services that anticipate customer needs, ensuring that we are well placed to deliver.

Business Development — encompassing issues of product and market development with a strong focus on introducing new "added value" services. We need an individual who is a strategic thinker,

an experienced manager and an accomplished "hands-on" implementer.

Of graduate calibre, we expect your functional background to be industry focused, where you will have successfully addressed a broad range of business development issues. A software house background, encompassing packaged software as well as bespoke applications, will be highly relevant. On offer is a competitive package that will include a negotiable salary, bonus, Company car and normal benefits. The role is North West based, and relocation assistance is available, if appropriate. To apply, please telephone Jean Thorley free of charge on 0800 269611, including Sunday 2.00-5.00pm or write in strict confidence to Mr Wynn Jones, Chesterman Swann & Co Limited, The Steam Mill, Steam Mill Street, Chester, CH3 5AN. Fax: 01244 342906. E-mail: chesterman_swann@compuserve.com

FRASER WILLIAMS

A REWARDING CHALLENGE

We are a long-established publishing company with full PLC status. Success means expansion and we welcome the opportunity to meet charismatic individuals who will appreciate our:

- International reputation / Blue chip client base
- Commitment to initial and ongoing career development
- High commission or basic + commission packages — £45K expected year one
- Company car and medical schemes

The role involves negotiation with Directors and Presidents throughout the world, so to rise to the challenge you should ideally be:

- Resident in London
- Graduate calibre
- A team player with a sense of humour

SPG IAN SLOA 0171-915-9943

"I'M WORTH MORE THAN THIS JOB!"

High flying unemployed graduates... more people are changing their career... we offer... assessment... They'll help you decide the best way forward... Call now for your brochure.

- CAREER ANALYSTS
- 0171-935 5452

CVs with IMPACT

- Sunday Times / Unilever Service Award finalist
- excellent value
- great service
- comprehensive options
- professional, successful

Info Pack - 0181 424 2430 IMPACT ASSOCIATES

It seems you have a lot of choice on these pages. In fact, you only have two.

To earn really good money in advertising sales you need a good book to work on and a very good manager to work with. I provide the most professional and lucrative environment possible, and I have done so for over 10 years.

I was a broke teacher. I became a cash-rich salesman. Now I'm a wealthy General Manager and I will teach you how to be a successful salesperson — quickly.

Phone me, Philip Armstrong, so I can show you how to succeed or phone the others and fail!!!

0171-262-4832 OR 0171-262-4784

TRADE MARKETING (FMCG)

Saudi Arabia

£35K tax free + bonus

One of the top five consumer products distributors, which combines international experience with real knowledge of the Saudi Arabian markets, seeks a first class Head of Trade Marketing.

Reporting to the Head of Marketing Operations and Services, the prime objective of this new role is to establish and maintain the Company's position as the preferred choice of principals as their FMCG distributor.

This will entail developing long term trade marketing and growth strategies for principals as well as defining and driving creative distributorship marketing strategies

which support the Company's competitive differential advantage.

Candidates aged 28 to 40, ideally graduates, will have several years' FMCG trade marketing experience, including man-management, and will be comfortable working with different nationalities and able to demonstrate team leadership skills.

As well as a tax free salary plus bonus, there is free housing, car allowance and annual air fares.

Please reply with full CV, quoting reference 1209, to James Walmsley, Director, Ennismore Partnership Ltd,

Ennismore INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND SELECTION

48-50 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7DG, fax 0171 436 7677, who is advising on this appointment.

How To Make £25,000 A Year With Your Home Computer See also Education 0800 371 500 +44 1832 850008 MORRIS COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

Public Relations Study from home for a new career or second income. A 12 week "Public Relations, Publicity & Promotions" Diploma Course with the Morris College of Journalism. Phone for a free Prospectus. 0800 371 500

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No. c/o THE TIMES P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA

سكنا من الألو

سورة الاحقاف

THE TIMES



Follow the leader: flying Finn Hakkinen may be outpacing the Scot Coulthard but viewing figures for ITV's Formula One coverage remain buoyant

ITV's formula wonderful

And, it's all happening here at Inter-lagos," shrieked Murray Walker gamely, but who was he trying to kid? Poor ITV, even when it does what advertisers want, it suffers bad luck. Already hit by Manchester United's exit from the Champions' League, at first glance it could have a nightmare season with Formula One.

As if the Brit, Coulthard, allowing the Finn, Hakkinen, to win in Australia wasn't bad enough, after Brazil last weekend it is painfully apparent that we are to have a season of McLaren processions (with the Finn winning).

Even the chasing pack is headed by the German Schumacher, followed by ratings disasters such as Heinz-Harald Frentzen. This does not bode well for ITV's viewing figures.

But advertisers aren't worried. The Brazilian Grand Prix still pulled in six to seven million viewers at its peak at a time on Sunday afternoon that is normally dead. And many of these are those much-prized young upmarket males.

Media buying agencies are surprised that the figures have held up so well. These are by no means the most talked about grand prix of the season. And, although Coulthard looks destined to be second, he will remain with a chance of winning for most of the season



Stefano Hatfield

— a ratings draw denied ITV last year. Inflation isn't even a serious problem. A dozen one-minute commercial breaks allow for the flexibility with car and petrol advertisers that football, with its enforced two breaks at half-time, can't offer.

Because of regulations concerning clutter and category exclusivity, those breaks can contain one car manufacturer each, or one fuel advertiser, thus driving up the price as they compete to take pole position. Formula One is therefore a very welcome addition to ITV's armoury.

And advertisers can point out that two years ago on the BBC that audience wasn't available to them.

SAD to report an early candidate for *The Times* "advertising turkey of the year award". You may not have seen the new Ford Ka commercial yet. But that might be because it is being subjected to that advertising euphemism "retouching in post-production". This means that the client hated the version that went on air so much that he's ordered it changed, and now!

Then again, you may have seen it and not realised, so utterly bemusing is the "idea". This involves the Ford Ka's logo being transposed, with the aid of some computer wizardry, onto a pair of football boots. These boots belong to a computer-generated play-

er who plays against a computer-generated opponent. The film cuts to reveal a human player grinning inanely. He throws the boots into the open hatch of his funky Ford Ka with the tagline: "If only Ka made football boots." But what does it mean "if only Ka made football boots"? If it did, would they not be worryingly cumbersome lumps of metal and plastic, needing an engine that would have to be so tiny as to fit on a player's foot and which wouldn't last five minutes before running out of gas?

Or, does it mean that if Ka made boots it would be like Nike or Reebok and be worn throughout the land? Is Ford sure it needs to get into a business so vulnerable to fashion?

Something has gone seriously awry here. True, the Ka was launched via some esoteric commercials. But they were based on recognisable car-related concepts such as freedom and stylish design.

This time, some football-loving advertising creative has run away with himself, and no one has had the courage to shout "emperor's new clothes". The end result is the most bemusing ad on TV since Vodafone's "X-Files".

It's a shame. It's loath to criticise Ford's current advertising. Campaigns for the Puma, Escort and Fiesta have been among the best on the box. Now, they have run away with themselves. The new Ford Galaxy commercial, set in India, is another piece of self-indulgence. It's to be hoped that the intent to create more stimulating advertising survives the inevitable inquest the Ka spot will provoke.

THE already fragile relationship between ITV and the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers took a turn for the worse this week after ISBA sent its members a letter asking them to support its campaign for more advertising airtime on ITV.

ITV is taking legal advice over the letter, which it claims is misleading and defamatory and could materially damage ITV's business. The letter sets out the issues of TV inflation,

touching on areas such as advertising on the BBC. Worse, in ITV's eyes, it asks for evidence of how damaging airtime inflation has been and suggests there will be a PR drive behind those advertisers that allocate spend away from ITV into other media.

ITV's chief executive, Richard Eyre, has described the letter as "inflammatory", claiming it is a "major own goal" by ISBA. This is the clearest sign yet of UK advertisers' belligerent attitude towards inflation. It's also proof, if any were still needed, that Eyre's honeymoon is over.

Stefano Hatfield is the editor of Campaign.

Weatherfield One, news sense nil?

Deirdre was a poor but honest, nondescript woman from the back streets of Britain who fell in love with a charming conman who deceived her. When she went on trial charged with credit card fraud, she was found guilty, even though she was innocent, and sent to jail for 18 months.

By yesterday, it was a fairly safe bet that almost everybody in Britain knew who "Deirdre" was. Not only was the jailing of Deirdre Rachid in *Coronation Street* last Sunday watched by 19 million viewers, but within hours of the sentence *The Sun* (9.7 million readers), *Daily Star* (1.8 million) and *The Express* (2.6 million) had each launched campaigns for her release. Even *The Guardian's* veteran television critic Nancy Banks-Smith was campaigning to Free the Weatherfield One on Monday.

Since then they have devoted swaths of editorial space to her plight. Only *The Mirror* has remained relatively unmoved. There have been T-shirts on offer in *The Sun* and *Daily Star* and You the Jury polls. *The Sun* even had exclusive pictures of Deirdre in jail.

By Tuesday, the Prime Minister had joined the campaign, with *The Sun* reporting that Tony Blair had ordered the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to investigate and was set to press for a rapid appeal or even a retrial. Its crusade—"Don't worry, chuck, we'll get you out"—had been backed by millions of Britons, including "stunned stars, peeved politicians and raging readers".

As the *Daily Star* countered with a centrefold Free Deirdre poster and a car sticker, *The Mirror* put a "worried nation" at ease by revealing that the Prime Minister need not worry: Deirdre would be enjoying a gin and tonic in the Rovers by the summer.

By now the story had made the basement slot of *The Times*, where light-relief stories are placed, and was given almost half a page in *The Daily Telegraph*. It reached its climax, however, on Wednesday, when the story seemed to feature in almost every national newspaper and the "news" that Deirdre had popped out of prison to post a letter to *The Sun* was given more prominence on the front page than its scoop on the £18,500 compensation for Josie Russell.

It was April Fool's Day, which may have been the reason why "Mrs Rachid and justice" merited a top leading article in *The Daily Telegraph*. It accused both Tony Blair and William Hague of committing grave errors by their opportunistic intervention in the saga: "No doubt an appeal will be lodged. Should Messrs Blair and Hague have any substantive evidence, they should forthwith submit it to the police, rather than

further impugning the impartiality of British justice."

It's a great story, but just a minute—surely it isn't fact but fiction? News editors are always complaining that they don't have enough space. So why fill their columns with a story from a television soap opera?

One answer is that Deirdre's fictional jailing is simply a bit of fun and light relief from all the other daily news, especially since most of the main news stories are old news by the morning. Anecdotal evidence supports the argument that Deirdre has certainly been a talking point well beyond the Rovers Return. So why shouldn't editors add to their readers' interest in the story?

Another—supported by *The Mirror's* Editor, Piers Morgan, the odd man out among the mass market tabloid editors this week—is that by devoting so much attention to what is only a soap opera, editors are blurring the proper distinction between fiction and reality and perhaps insulting the intelligence of their readers.

Was a Deirdre stunt really a better story than Josie Russell, he asked?

As Donald Treford, the former Editor of *The Observer* and now Professor of Journalism at Sheffield University, says, these are the sort of questions that intrigue journalism students. His view was that the original joke of making news out of soap operas was becoming self-defeating. Blair and Hague were encouraging a worrying trend which suggested that real news was boring, had been seen on television and should therefore be treated as entertainment, as in supermarket magazines. Seeing television personalities as news fodder, whether on or off screen, was a trend that ought not to be encouraged, and Deirdre was its apotheosis. Journalists ought to keep a sense of what was real and what was phoney.

If that is condemned as out of touch with popular opinion, Mark Steel in *The Guardian* pointed out in a witty column what would really have happened if the story of Deirdre had been fact instead of fiction. Michael Howard would have issued a statement saying that she had been tried by "the fairest system of justice in the world". David Trimble would have accused Blair of insulting the Protestant community in Ulster. And what would *The Sun* have said?

"So Deirdre the darling doddler should be released, say campaigners! It's not enough that she was caught red-handed... Now at taxpayers' expense she wants you to pay for an appeal! As if our overstretched Bobbies have got nothing else to do. Some newspapers have even produced stickers! How appropriate! The only advice you'll get from us is where to stick them!"



Brian MacArthur

Campaign uses shock poster to end mental health taboo

SINCE words such as nigger, wop and coon are obviously unacceptable racial abuse, what justification is there for the use of loony, mong or nutter when referring to the mentally ill?

"Mental health is one of society's last taboos," says Clive Caseley, director of appeals and marketing at the mental health charity MIND. "One of the biggest problems we face is the discrimination suffered by many who are mentally ill. Other people's reactions to them can be one of the most debilitating side-effects."

He was speaking at the launch of an awareness campaign to combat media misrepresentation of mental illness, for which the advertising agency GGT created a mock poster using offensive descriptions of the mentally ill.

The media, Mr Caseley believes, bears a significant portion of the blame. "Media tends to go for shorthand. All too often that results in stereotypical news stories that reflect back to the public stereotypes they already believe in. Our aim is to break this vicious circle."

Headlines are a major problem, adds Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE. "The only time mental health seems to hit the news is when a tragedy occurs—normally homicide—which, in fact, is far less commonplace than suicide."

MIND and SANE are members of Focus—a consortium of mental healthcare organisations—which, along with the Department of Health, staged a media forum yesterday. Focus's concern spans print, TV, radio and ads. "Nutters in beef boycott" blared one *Daily Star* report about the BSE concerns of high-security hospital patients.

ITV's *Peak Practice* also raised concerns with a storyline about a violent schizophrenic; the Independent Television Commission is investigating a



The campaign's hard-hitting poster highlights unacceptable name-calling

complaint. A Barclays ad was also criticised for misrepresenting and lampooning manic depressives; it was quickly withdrawn.

"We're not trying to blame people in the media for trying to do their job," Mr Caseley insists. "But there is widespread misunderstanding—particularly about community care. What is news is obviously by the shock, horror story. But if this is based on unrepresentative stereotypes needlessly fuelling fears this is obviously wrong."

This, however, is a "cop out", believes Richard Handford, executive producer of *The Bill*, which has run storylines involving manic depression, obsessive behaviour and Alzheimer's disease.

"Mental illness is a poor dramatic motivation for fictional crime. The audience would feel short-changed, and rightly so," he says. Although not an issues-led drama, *The Bill* covers mental illness because it is there. Mr Handford adds: "Every storyline is meticulously

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

FOUR HONDAS TO BE WON

To celebrate Honda's 50th anniversary, *The Times* offers readers the chance to win one of four sensational bikes.

THE PRIZES ARE:

- ONE OF TWO HONDA HORNETS
- A HONDA VTR 1000 FIRESTORM AND
- A HONDA VT750C SHADOW

The Honda Hornet (above) delivers an exciting combination of top performance and light and easy handling. It has terrific road holding and, above all, is fun to ride. The 600cc class streetfighter runs on wide, grippy tyres, still implementing the legacy of the very first Honda that made motorcycling history by providing superior technology, flawless build quality and exceptional reliability.

HOW TO ENTER

Collect all six differently numbered tokens published in *The Times* this week and attach them to the prize draw entry form which will appear tomorrow. You can enter as many times as you wish but no photocopied tokens or entry forms will be accepted. The closing date for entries is Tuesday April 21, 1998.

Entrants should be over 18. The bikes come with six months' road tax but no insurance. The winners will collect their prizes from their local Honda dealer.

For information about Honda Bikes, call 0345 585 570

THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO WIN A TOYOTA — SEE PAGE 46

CHANGING TIMES

POSTS

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP
 2 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5PP
 Tel: 0171-588 3588 or 0171-588 3576
 Fax: 0171-256 8501 E-mail: cjagroup@online.rednet.co.uk

This highly successful co-educational independent Day School in West London employing 70 teachers for 600 pupils (220 in the Senior School) wishes to make the following appointments:

PHYSICS AND MATHS TEACHER
 £25,000 - £26,000

This post is open to Physics graduates aged 28 - 40 with a minimum of 3 years' experience teaching Physics to G.C.S.E. The successful candidate will teach Physics and Maths to G.C.S.E. and take sole charge for the teaching of Physics. Participation in Games and extra-curricular activities will be required. (Ref:PM7162/TT)

ENGLISH TEACHER
 £25,000 - £26,000

This position is open to 24 - 30 year old talented graduates with at least 3 years' experience teaching English. The position forms part of the English team noted for its excellence. Some knowledge of the media is desirable as is an interest in the Theatre. Teaching will be in the top Junior class and Senior School 11 - 16 with an important liaison role between the departments. Participation in extra-curricular activities will be required. (Ref:ET7163/TT)

An additional pastoral responsibility for Year 7 is available for a suitable candidate for either of the above posts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
 £17,000 - £19,000

To teach Games (Netball, Lacrosse, Swimming, Gymnastics and Athletics), to girls in the Primary through to Senior School up to G.C.S.E. The successful candidate will have achieved a high standard personally in their chosen sport and will bring enthusiasm to a strong P.E. team. The post would suit a newly qualified teacher. (Ref:PE7164/TT)

The ability to add value to the School in each position is important.

Additional benefits include: subsidised single accommodation, contributory pension and free life assurance.

Applications in strict confidence under quoting the appropriate reference to the Managing Director, CJA, 2 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5PP.

RIVERSIDE CHILDCARE SERVICES PRINCIPAL

This is an opportunity to take on a pivotal role in a stimulating and developing Special Needs Provision Riverside Childcare Services provides education and care across three sites and offers year round support to pupils with educational, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The emphasis is on encouraging children to gain confidence, self respect and independence through personal development and achievement.

We are re-defining and developing the roles of senior managers. The principal will manage Riverside's staff, children and related programmes and will be ultimately responsible to the director/owner.

THE ROLE
 Key elements include:
 • Developing, managing and maintaining a wide range of staff
 • Implementing, managing and developing the professional programme
 • Promoting Riverside as a centre of excellence

THE PERSON
 You will have:
 • Professional expertise and experience in a relevant setting and appropriate qualifications.
 You will be:
 • An excellent manager - able to organise, develop, support and motivate a range of staff and children
 • An excellent administrator - able to follow projects through to completion, produce and meet targets.

Salary c £40,000 + Bonus

For further details and an application form please write to Riverside School, Wexford, Mirkhops, Cambridgeshire LA7 7DN

Closing Date for applications is 1 May. Interviews and assessments will take place on 14 May.

Latymer Upper School
 King St, London W6 9LR
 HMC 930 Day Boys aged 11 - 18
 with coeducational Sixth Form of 330

ASSISTANT BURSAR

Latymer Upper is an independent day school for 1100 pupils, presently implementing a major building plan to provide excellent facilities for the next century. We seek a person to assume a senior support role within the Bursar's team at this busy time in the school's development.

You will have a strong financial background coupled with the flexibility to carry out a wide variety of administrative tasks, be computer literate and ideally will have had previous experience in educational administration. In return for your enthusiastic commitment, the post offers interest, challenge and the opportunity for career development within the bursarial field.

As a first step, please send us a full c.v. and the names of three referees. Fuller details by return post. Jean Bryer, Gabbittas Educational Consultants, Carrington House, 126-130 Regent St, London W1R 6EE.
 Tel: 0171 734 9181, Fax: 0171 437 1784.
 The closing date for applications is 24th April 1998.

GABBITTAS

Director of Training and Education
 package £50k Norwich

This post, central to the development and implementation of a training and education strategy that meets the needs of the area, will continue the strong customer and business focus that has been established. You will be able to demonstrate a progressive career within a recognised business or training environment and will be able to demonstrate a reputation for delivering appropriate skills solutions in demanding situations.

You will be persuasive, committed and possess the business maturity needed to deliver multi-million pound programmes. Your role will be critical to our success in shaping the future of the local economy and continuing the process of fostering effective relationships with key partners in local business, as well as with local authorities and educational establishments.

You will be of graduate calibre, probably with a business background, and with significant experience of large contract management at a senior level preferably within a TEC or other government contracting environment. Possessing excellent interpersonal and communication skills you will be able to lead and motivate a dedicated team and have a genuine interest in people and their development.

We are looking for individuals with the dynamism, background and personal credibility to make a difference. If you can demonstrate the experience, passion and skills that would make you our first choice, then please send full personal and career details, including current remuneration level and a daytime telephone number, in confidence, to Tony Evans, Human Resource Manager, Norfolk & Waveney TEC, Partnership House, Whiting Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6DJ quoting reference T&E/DR. Closing date: 14 April 1998.

COURSES

PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE
 Places available
 Call for an interview
 KINGSTON UNIVERSITY
 0181 547 7066

CHAPTERHOUSE
GET RICH PROOFREADING?
 (BOOKS, REPORTS, JOURNALS, BROCHURES, MAGAZINES)

Not rich, but with a CHAPTERHOUSE course behind you £2000 - £3000 a week will be yours if you are successful. (Not bad for 20 to 30 hours work at home at £10 an hour!) Our prospectus tells of sunny summer afternoons over the past seven years of building. People like you with no experience who enjoy reading can build a good business. But nothing in life is easy. Read the full facts in our free prospectus.

★ SEVEN-YEAR TRACK RECORD TRAINING
 ★ FREELANCERS AND PUBLISHERS
 ★ MANY SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS
 ★ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCED TUTORS (PUBLISHERS AND FREELANCERS)
 ★ ADVICE AND MARKING OF ASSIGNMENTS
 ★ CORRESPONDENCE COURSES OR FACE-TO-FACE SEMINARS
 ★ MARKETING ADVICE / HOW TO GET STARTED
 ★ RESPECTED CERTIFICATES TO PROVE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

For your free prospectus write to CHAPTERHOUSE, 2 SOUTHERNHAY WEST, EXETER EX1 1JG
 TEL: 01392 498488 FAX: 01392 498908

P.O.W.I.A. V.I.T.A.

M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. & PED. COURSES IN VISUAL ISLAMIC & TRADITIONAL ARTS

The V.I.T.A. Courses offer a unique opportunity to study both the theory and the practice of visual Islamic and traditional arts at higher educational level. Besides the doctoral programme there are three types of courses available at M.A. & M.Phil. level lasting 2 years:

(1) Practical Course (2) Project course (half practical/half theory) (3) Degree by thesis (theory)

Students are encouraged to pursue their own particular skills - whether it be painting, woodcarving, jewellery, stained glass, ceramics etc. at the same time as attending the classes in geometry, calligraphy, arabesque and others. The study of the theory and meaning of the traditional arts are a special feature of the V.I.T.A. programme.

For further details contact:
 The V.I.T.A. Administrator, P.O.W.I.A., Unit 66, 44 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8JD.
 Telephone: 0171 916 9746 Facsimile: 0171 916 9741
 Registered Charity Number: 101330
 email: vta@compuserve.com

P.O.W.I.A. exists to explore, teach and promote ways of improving the quality of the built environment.

Director of Compliance
 package c £50k Norwich

This recently created post offers the right person the opportunity to develop a new division and to make a significant contribution to shaping the TEC as a whole.

The post holder will ensure that the highest standards of professionalism are in place across the complete range of TEC activities in order to meet and exceed the best standards of contract compliance, financial control and internal quality. You will also be a key part of the external TEC interface, with both public and private sector organisations, to continue the process of fostering effective and productive relationships with our key partners.

Responsible for developing and implementing sound strategies and procedures for Quality, Internal Audit and Contract Management and Compliance you will ensure the TEC approaches the millennium as a model of best practice in all aspects of its operation.

You are likely to be of degree calibre, to have a recognised accountancy qualification or directly relevant professional skills and to have operated at middle or senior management levels. While TEC experience is desirable it is not essential. You will be adaptable and be able to demonstrate achievement in a similar environment.

LANGUAGE COURSES

BA (HONS) IN MODERN LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Four year Degree Course (third year spent on industrial/academic attachments).
 Two Languages from French, German, Spanish, English as a foreign language and Business.
 Starting level: French ('A' level), English (Advanced), Spanish and/or German ('A' level), Business, GCSE ('O' level).
 South Bank University is a dynamic institution at the heart of London, only minutes away from the professional, social and cultural facilities of the capital.
 For further information contact: Carol Smith telephone: 0171-815 8225 or email: Standic@sbu.ac.uk or Adam Bussey telephone: 0171-815 7782 or email: Bussey@sbu.ac.uk
 South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London SE1 0NA.

The University of Chichester
 A charity serving the community through excellence in teaching and research.

LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD
 FRANCE - GERMANY - ITALY - SPAIN - SWEDEN - COSTA RICA

GAP YEAR AND REVISION COURSES START DATES EVERY FOURTH IDEAL FOR ALL LEVELS

EF International Language Schools
 Call now for a brochure: (0171) 878 3550

Learn French fast
 Intensive French Classes - Starting now

For a free brochure call
0171 723 7471

Alliance Française
 Sponsored by the French Government
 Registered charity no 276892

Alliance Française de Londres 1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU
 and 4 Morwell St, London WC1B 3AN E-mail: info@alliancefrancaise.org.uk

SUMMER COURSES IN FRANCE

CHALLENGE • Under 18s Summer Programme
 2-4 wks Antibes & Biarritz

The Language Specialists • 4-8 wks Intensive & Advanced French
 Sorbonne University, Paris & Côte D'Azur
 (01273) 220261

Language Courses on Location
 French, German, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese courses for business, tourism or pleasure for all ages and abilities.

ESOL Language Courses
 P.O. Box 1291 Waltham
 W12 0PP U.K.
 Tel: +44 (0) 1883 200008
 Fax: +44 (0) 1883 208848

The AUSTRIAN EXPERIENCE
 German language courses in breathtaking Austrian cities

Beginners to Advanced
 Specialist courses for teenagers, teachers, 50+

Anglo-Austrian Society
 tel 0171 222 0388
 fax 0171 233 0283
 ATOL 066

French as you like it: en français

Morning intensive starts 14th April.
 Crash course starts 20th April.
 Breakfast course starts 21st April.
 Saturday courses start 25th April

14 Cromwell Place
 London SW7 2JR
0171.581.2701

JOINT HONOURS DEGREES IN MODERN LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Students can study two main subjects, including two languages, from

Department of Modern Languages	French, German, Spanish, Italian, European Studies
Department of International Studies	Geography, History, International Relations, Politics

Modules are now available in business language
 A specialist module is now available in information technology for linguists.
 Accelerated routes are now available in Italian and Spanish:
 Modules are now available in TESOL (Teaching English to speakers of other languages). A certificate in TESOL will be available to those who have taken the appropriate modules.

If you have any queries regarding courses please contact Evan Stewart or Pete George on 0115-9418418 ext 3298 / ext 3217

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
 P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
 LONDON, E1 9GA

QUEEN'S LONDON • CAMBRIDGE

Business/Office Skills Training
 April/May Courses

- 12 Week Intensive Business Skills
- 6 Week Part-Time IT
- 4 Week Full-Time IT

Queen's Business & Secretarial College
 0171 589 8583
 Queen's Marlborough College
 01223 367016

The three R's... Results Results Results

If your child is aged between 6-14 you'll want to help them get the best results. There are many books available, but ours are the only official Parents' Guides containing the actual questions set in the 1997-1998 tests, with answers and full marking guides.

These invaluable guides are published by The Stationery Office in association with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, and include useful tips to help you discuss the actual questions with your child.

The Official Guides to the National Tests
 For more information on how to help your child get the right results, call or fax us today.

Parents' Guides to the Key Stage Tests are available for these subjects:

Key Stage 1	Age 6-7	English & Maths	£5.99	ISBN 0 11 370053 9
Key Stage 2	Age 10-11	English	£5.99	ISBN 0 11 370050 4
		Maths	£5.99	ISBN 0 11 370051 2
		Science	£5.99	ISBN 0 11 370052 0
Key Stage 3	Age 13-14	English	£12.99	ISBN 0 11 370055 5
		Maths	£12.99	ISBN 0 11 370056 3
		Science	£12.99	ISBN 0 11 370057 1

Call 0171 873 9090 or Fax 0171 873 8200

SENIOR APPPOINTMENTS

Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics

The Department - rated 5 in the recent research assessment exercise - wishes to make the following appointments to support its objective to remain one of the leading centres of excellence in research and teaching in the field of aerospace engineering. In each case, applicants are expected to have an established record in research, with relevant industrial experience an additional advantage.

Professor of Aerospace Engineering Ref: P422

This new appointment is expected to provide strong leadership in future research activities in the Department. Research background within the broad based Aeronautics and/or Astronautics fields is essential. The main criteria of significance to the appointment are to be currently research active with a proven international research reputation, with a record in attracting support and establishing links with appropriate sectors of industry and external research funding organisations.

The closing date for this post is 1 May 1998.

The Reg Platt Lectureship in Aviation Management Ref: R407

This appointment is in a new and developing discipline within the Department and the lecturer is required to take the lead in the subject, both in research and teaching. Management experience in aircraft operations is desirable and the successful candidate will lecture at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, also taking a significant role in the organisation of the recently established MSc course in Aviation Management.

The appointment will be made on Lecture Scale A/B: £16,045 - £27,985

The closing date for this post is 29 May 1998.

Informal enquiries concerning either of the above posts may be made to Professor R G White, Head of Department, telephone +44(0)1703 592315. Please quote the appropriate reference number for each post. Further particulars may be obtained by telephoning +44(0)1703 594046, e-mail rjc3@soton.ac.uk for post P422, or +44(0)1703 592750, e-mail recruit@soton.ac.uk for post R421.

Working for equal opportunities

University of Southampton

سكنا للخدمات

EDUCATION

The coexistence lesson is put to the test

Monday marks the start of the annual fortnight when, for better or worse, the media spotlight focuses on the teaching unions. For almost 20 years, this has been the cue for a long succession of diatribes against the Government for its neglect of education.

What to do, then, when that administration is Labour-controlled, with education its stated priority, £2 billion added to the schools budget in its first year and more expected from an imminent spending review? A celebratory rally might seem to be in prospect, but seasoned observers are not holding their breath.

Finding the right tone has not proved easy for any union since the Labour Party came to power, but it is especially difficult for the teachers' organisations. Many activists are disappointed both by the level of influence they command and by the continuation of some key Tory policies that they opposed.

The Easter conference round sees the start of what may be a defining period for the future of the three big classroom unions. All will soon have to elect general secretaries, and one could begin to steer a new direction. Not to be left out, the smaller Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), which does not meet until July, has already elected a new general secretary. Kay Driver, a long-serving senior official in the Secondary Heads Association, is to try to revive the fortunes of the non-striking union.

John O'Leary assesses Labour-union attitudes as the teachers hold their annual conferences

The first of the Easter conferences—the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, in Bournemouth—may show just how tough a task she faces. The ATL, frustrated at being treated as an afterthought to the biggest two unions, may be ready for a change of tack. Though it is seven years since the association abandoned merger plans with the PAT, the time may be right for a new appeal to teachers who think that old-style trade unionism has had its day. The ATL, though not sacrificing its little-used right to take industrial action, shows signs of following the American pattern of teacher unionism. In the United States, the big unions decided during the Reagan era that they were losing touch with their members and began to take the lead in educational ventures, as well as fulfilling the normal representative functions. For example, the American Education Association is running a Read Across America campaign to involve parents. The ATL has not shrunk from criticism of some Labour policies,

but its line, for example, on education action zones has been notably more accommodating than that of its rivals. Leaders of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) have been critical, fearing the erosion of national pay and conditions. Their delegates can be expected to be even more so.

Nigel de Gruchy, NASUWT's general secretary, once said, perhaps mischievously, that teachers hesitated to turn on a television set while the NUT was in conference because of the embarrassment they felt as the image of their profession suffered. The remark riled the NUT, but this year's agenda suggests another sustained bout of militancy. Resolutions are peppered with calls for anti-Government campaigns and industrial action. The one motion in the international section celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and would commit the union to campaigning to lift the US blockade of the island.

Though NUT moderates beat off a hard Left challenge for senior positions in the union this year, the failure of an attempt to involve the membership directly in key policy decisions will give free rein once more to the often unrepresentative conference.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, should receive a warmer reception than on his last visit to the NUT in Blackpool, when he was pursued



Dealing with an administration that is Labour-controlled, with education its stated priority: Doug McAvoy, left, and Nigel de Gruchy

by haranguing protesters. But he will not expect a hero's welcome. Mr Blunkett has shown that he is capable of giving as good as he gets on such occasions, and is said to be planning his own broadside for the NASUWT over its opposition to including children with special needs in mainstream schools. He may also have some choice

words for both unions if measures that he is expected to announce to reduce bureaucracy in schools fail to halt threats of industrial action. The conferences take place as speculation mounts about the future leadership of the teaching unions. Peter Smith is due for reelection this year as the ATL's general secretary and may be

unopposed, but Mr McAvoy is certain to face opposition next year and Mr de Gruchy has not yet committed himself to restanding in 2000. The NASUWT's conference the next year is in his native Jersey, and would offer the perfect stage on which to bow out if he chose to take early retirement.

By then, the unions may have been forced to look more closely at their role. In a parody of previous trade union practices, the NASUWT offered "Sancker and sandwiches" at its pre-conference briefing. More radical change may be required if the teachers' organisations are to adapt successfully to the new climate.

Should public funding for Cambridge and Oxford be reduced? Christopher Ball and Geoffrey Marshall debate the issue



Boating on the Cam: choppy waters are ahead for Oxford and Cambridge universities

Privilege and elitism are a thin defence

Are the universities more like orange juice or grand opera? Or are they more decorative than useful? These questions, posed by an irreverent friend a few years ago, occurred to me again when I read *The Times's* leader on the Government's decision to phase out the public funding of Oxbridge college fees (March 19).

The defenders of the ancient universities are quick to claim that "the ability of Oxford and Cambridge to maintain their standard as international educational institutions will be seriously eroded if these plans proceed in their present form". I doubt it.

The argument from excellence is a peculiarly British debating trick. It goes like this: "Surely you value excellence... the excellence of Oxbridge depends on the resources invested in those universities... so, if those resources are cut, excellence will be damaged." It is, of course, a thinly veiled defence of privilege and is commonly used to defend the use of public funds to support privileged institutions.

What's wrong with it? First, there is only a rather weak correlation between funding and quality. I used to believe that the level of resources was a rough, but real, guide to quality in higher education. But the evidence made me think otherwise. The Open University, the new former polytechnic universities and the further education colleges have all proved that excellent advanced education can be provided much more cheaply than in the older universities.

of public funds, then merely to defend the status quo is feeble and unprincipled. Perhaps they should be even more generously funded?

Thirdly, there is the problem of the "honourable elite theory". This theory—so widely accepted in Britain that it can be questioned—claims that the prosperity and well-being of a nation or community depends on the selection and education of the most able people within it. Such people, it is argued, will become the leaders, inventors, creators and managers in our society; their achievements will make it possible for wealth and welfare to trickle down to embrace all the rest. But is it true—or sufficiently true?

In Lord Dahrendorf's report on *Wealth Creation and Social Cohesion in a Free Society* (1995) it is argued that wealth creation may depend more on the education of the least able, rather than the most able. My own view is that we shall gradually find that it is the average level of education and human development that is the best correlate to the wealth and welfare within communities and nations.

Public policy, however, cannot wait for the definitive answer. Governments must distribute resources disproportionately in favour of the education of either the most able (the status quo) or the least able; or they must attempt to be even-handed and support the learning of all equally.

Whether we want health, wealth or happiness, it is through our own learning and that of others that we shall achieve it. The challenge to educators and governments therefore is how to ensure that everyone achieves their full potential. There is an argu-

ment for this on the ground of equity, but I am arguing it on the basis of economics.

My generation has seen astonishing growth in participation. In 1960, 4 per cent of 18-year-olds went on to higher education; by 1995, this had risen to about 30 per cent.

The issue is not primarily one of ability. We know that for most people the prerequisites for learning are motivation, confidence and opportunity; and that most people, given the first two, will find the third. Some nations, such as South Korea, are planning for 80 per cent of their young people to go to university. We shall have to match this before long.

Expensive, publicly funded, traditional residential higher education is, I believe, an obsolete model for the learning society we must create in the new century. If Oxford and Cambridge are to retain the collegiate model, the high costs associated with this form of higher education must be met by means-tested top-up fees from private sources.

But these challenges do not constitute an "assault on excellence". They will help a great system of higher education to continue to adapt and evolve the 21st century. We need universities that are useful, not merely decorative. They should be more like orange juice than grand opera. Oxford and Cambridge, and their defenders (of which I am one), should be using their wit and wisdom to help us to understand and develop the real agenda for higher education, not to defend the indefensible claim that the colleges deserve or need special treatment from the State.

CHRISTOPHER BALL

• Sir Christopher Ball is Chancellor of the University of Derby. He was Warden of Keble College, Oxford, from 1980 to 1988.

THE Government's treatment of the Oxford and Cambridge colleges raises issues both of liberty and constitutional principle.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State, is proposing from 1999 onwards to make the Higher Education Funding Council responsible for what he describes as the Government's "funding of Oxford and Cambridge". This phrase embodies a persistent misconception about the organisation of the two universities.

The colleges of Oxford and Cambridge are not funded by the Government. They are independent, self-governing institutions with their own statutes and not departments of the university.

Colleges are not bodies in direct receipt of grants from the Secretary of State. They are financed by their endowments and in part by the tuition fees and charges they have always made to the students admitted as members.

In recent times, the fees of qualified award-holders have been paid on their behalf through local education authorities. This reimbursement of fees contractually owed by students to colleges cannot be called government funding.

Oxford's 39 colleges could, no doubt, operate more cheaply if their separate libraries and dining halls were converted into a single refectory and a combined book repository. But nobody has urged that course, or supposed that it would improve their standing.

In a free country, it is important that there should be some institutions that do not take orders from politicians and, in particular, institutions of higher education free from government direction in pursuing teaching and research. Oxbridge colleges are perhaps the last remaining educational bodies capable of filling this role.

Tutors do not have to submit their reading lists or defend the objectives and parameters of their courses to quality assessors or compose mission statements to civil servants in exchange for public money that may be withdrawn if they fail to cooperate with authority. They are not subject to guidelines or directives imposed by outside paymasters.

What the Secretary of State is proposing to do is to make a quasi-governmental body—the Higher Education Funding Council—the colleges' paymaster with "robust arrangements" to "maintain excellence" in teaching at Oxbridge. The council is to develop "further links between funding and the quality of teaching". What this means can be easily imagined.

Those who devote themselves to meeting the funding council's standards will be rewarded with money or a laudatory grade. Those who prefer to get on with their teaching and research in their own way will be financially penalised or directed to an appropriately robust training course. Putting the colleges under the funding council's tutelage would be a profound constitutional change in the relationships between col-

Keep your hands off our colleges

leges, the university and the Government.

The future financial aspects of the minister's strategy are equally unprincipled. From next year, over ten years, there will be successive cuts in the lump sums distributed to the colleges in replacement of fee awards.

The cuts are labelled, in Orwellian vein, "efficiency gains". Such cuts, if not

placeable from other sources, amount to confiscation of a proportion of the value of the colleges' teaching assets.

It is claimed that if colleges attempt to continue to exercise their fee-charging rights, the minister's policy can be enforced through the Teaching and Higher Education Bill.

But if this were to be invoked so as to deny the rights of a private institution to make

use of its assets or to forbid its members to make contracts for the supply of their teaching services, the minister's actions would arguably be challengeable under the Government's own human rights legislation as being confiscatory and discriminatory.

If they value their freedom, the colleges and their universities should categorically re-

ject the minister's scheme. They should say that whatever sums are remitted after 1999 must be in partial settlement of student fees and that a corresponding college fee will be set year by year to make up the balance.

The Government cannot, except on a tyrannical principle, forbid colleges to pay their own way by charging the full value for the educational services they provide.

If the colleges fail to call the minister's bluff, Mr Blunkett and his quango will put an end to college independence.

GEOFFREY MARSHALL
• Dr Marshall is Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford.



THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of SINGAPORE

Founded 1905

MASTER OF ARTS (URBAN DESIGN)

Applications are invited for admission to the following postgraduate programme in the academic year 1998-99 commencing 13 July 1998.

The Master of Arts (Urban Design) programme is a 1-year full-time postgraduate degree course that studies the city in more complex and inclusive terms than architectural design or landscape architecture, and in a more formal perspective than urban planning. Successful design of urban public spaces requires careful consideration for current and future users as well as an understanding of a wide range of cultural, social, ecological, technical, financial, and political issues. The programme consists of 7 essential modules, 2 elective modules and the writing of a dissertation, covering urban design studio and topics of urban design including history and theory of urban design, elements of urban design and methods of urban design and urban analysis, and specific urban studies.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Master of Arts (Urban Design) programme must possess one of the following:-

- (a) Bachelor of Architecture / Master of Architecture
- OR
- (b) Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) (Hons)
- OR
- (c) possess such other Honours degree or equivalent qualifications and relevant experience in a discipline allied to urban design.

For further information on the programme, please contact Ms Angeline Rani Daniel, Administrative Officer (School of Architecture) at Tel: (65) 874 5186.

Application Forms

Application forms are obtainable at a cost of S\$5.00 from:

The Registrar
National University of Singapore
10 Kent Ridge Crescent
Singapore 119260

Applicants should send a bank draft made payable to the National University of Singapore.

The closing date for applications is 30 April 1998.

RUGBY UNION

Clubs stand united in contract row with RFU

By Mark Souster

THE leading clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership yesterday agreed that their England players should not sign further separate contracts with the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Representatives of English First Division Rugby (EFD) believe that the existing contracts between player and club adequately cater for the demands of representative and international rugby.

At present, the England squad has contracts with both club and country, the latter expiring at the end of July. RFU policy is that new contracts, providing for international payments, bonuses and terms, should cover the next two years, taking in the 1999 World Cup. However, the clubs interpret this as the first step towards total control of players by the RFU.

"We don't think another contract is necessary," Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens, said last night. He said the clubs were not preventing the players from representing England, pointing out that release periods are written into individual contracts as per International Board regulations. "The players are 100 per cent available, free of charge," Wray said.

An RFU management board meeting last week. Charles Levison, a clubs' representative, was quoted as saying: "It is EFD policy that any player who signs an

England contract will not be allowed to play for his club, nor will any club play against any other club whose players do so."

These comments were included in a letter from Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's management board, to the game at large as evidence that players were being held to ransom. The clubs insist Levison's comments were taken out of context. That letter carried alleged messages of support for Brittle from southern hemisphere unions.

At their meeting yesterday the clubs reiterated that they would not play in Europe next season under the format proposed, despite threats, set out in a missive from Brittle, to withhold grants and payments totalling £2.5 million.

His letter has only hardened the clubs' resolve. "We are totally united on this despite what Mr Brittle might suggest," Wray said.

It was also agreed to press ahead with plans to expand the Allied Dunbar Premiership despite the RFU's refusal to sanction such a move. The RFU council will consider the proposals today but the clubs are expected to bring out their own structure for next season, including promotion and relegation, in the near future.

Allan Bateman will decide today whether he can play for Wales against France at Wembley on Sunday. Bateman has been given compassionate leave this week and not trained because his 6-year-old daughter, Naomi, is suffering from a serious eye complaint.

Results of tests are expected today and these will determine whether Bateman, 33, takes the field. If not, Neil Boobyer, of Llanelli, will step up, with Dafydd James, of Pontypridd, joining the replacements. A Welsh Rugby Union spokesman said: "Allan is being given as much time as possible to make up his mind."

Paul Turner, 39, Bedford's director of coaching, has denied that the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup final tonight, against Gloucester, will be his final appearance for the club.



Penaud hopes to recapture the form at Saracens that brought him 30 appearances for France

Penaud picked as next in line

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SARACENS, the Tetley's Bitter Cup finalists, confirmed yesterday that their choice as heir to Michael Lynagh — the world-record points-scorer in international — is Alain Penaud. The France fly half will move from Brive in July to take up a three-year contract with the Watford club.

Lynagh, the former Australia captain, retires at the end of this season — along with Philippe Sella and Gavin Johnson — and it is the pivotal problem that Saracens have addressed first. However, whether Penaud is the answer to any goalkicking problems Lynagh leaves behind remains to be seen, his kicking talents having been underused by Brive since the arrival of Christophe Lamaison.

Though he has won 30 caps for

France, Penaud's unquestioned footballing abilities have flickered only occasionally on the international stage. He has not been helped by his ability to play at centre and full back. Brive have used him in the latter role for much of this season, including the Heineken Cup final, when they lost to Bath. A year ago Penaud played at fly half when they won the title.

"It was a big frustration for me to play full back in so many games for Brive," Penaud, 28, said yesterday. "I did it to help the club and I would do it again when they lost to Bath. A year ago Penaud played at fly half when they won the title.

career, a second breath, and if I perform well enough for them I hope that will help me back into the France side."

Penaud last appeared for his country against Australia last June and has been bypassed by David Aucagne and Thierry Lacroix, and now by Thomas Castaignède. But the disciplined approach at Saracens of Francois Pienaar and the knowledge of the contribution made to the club's success by Sella, another Frenchman, will motivate him.

Part of Penaud's appeal to Saracens is the loyalty he has shown to Brive for 11 seasons. "One thing we have got right is the quality of people who have come in," Nigel Wray, the Saracens chairman, said. "That's absolutely crucial to the progress of the club."

Boniface gives directions to path of progress

There is something entirely appropriate about the fact that England and France should be closing the Five Nations Championship this season with matches against opposition that has been argued to be substantially inferior. But the show is not over until we have a final rendering of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", or, who knows, for those with sweet charity in their souls, a few bars of Cwm Rhondda from Wembley. There is much still to play for.

With Wales in residence, the great stadium has not heard such singing since those days when the man in the white suit strode to the rostrum, lifted his baton and united a nation with *Abide With Me* on FA Cup Final day. Like their surprisingly relaxed supporters, who sing with gusto and uninhibited joy, the Wales team, too, should begin to let their hair down and echo this confidence. But to the point. To much trumpeting, England and France began the tournament by playing each other in a fixture advertised as the championship decider, which may well prove to be the case.

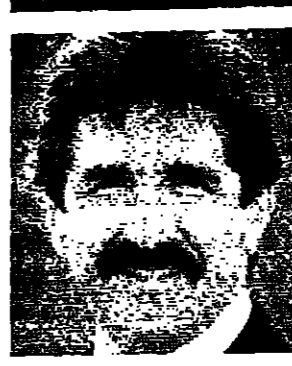
So far, both teams have been at their best when respecting the tradition to which they belong. England have ambitions elsewhere and have shown flashes of brilliance, but they remain strongest when the bulldog breed is left to sort out matters at forward. Inefficiencies have forced France to play a tighter game than they would have wished, but they sparkle when touched by the romantic mood, when they feel the wind in their hair.

France are returning to a style rooted in their history. England have the tougher task. They are attempting to depart from their patterned past. Greenwood, whose instant awareness belies the usual tendencies of a man of his size, and Guscott, despite occasionally freezing when faced with an impending tackle, are the midfield catalysts. The touch play and distribution of Dallaglio and Back develop this flow. The difficulty will arise during the summer. It is a brave team that goes to New Zealand in the

hope of developing a game. But then Clive Woodward, the coach, is not short of courage. This weekend, France's approach is going to be the more intriguing. England are going home, as it were, to Twickenham in search of progress. France must travel. Perhaps, with their Murrayfield romp in mind, this is no longer for them quite the inhibiting factor that it once was. If so, then it will be interesting to see to what extent the prize that awaits them — a second successive grand slam — will prove a burden.

While other countries go in search for a number of phases to recycle the ball, and seem set on imitating each other, France are demonstrably wishing for something that is distinctively theirs.

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

There is an essay by André Boniface, the great centre who played 38 times for his country, in which he writes: "Crossing the advantage line as quickly as possible is a message that ought to be revised to cross the advantage line as far from the movement's starting-point as soon as possible."

Rugby has not changed so much that this is no longer true. Indeed, with defences as rigid as they are nowadays, this axiom may be more pertinent than ever.

The French respect the midfield players as artists in their own right. "Movements pass through [the centre] but should not stop with him," Boniface, whose words should form an essential text for every aspiring midfield player, said.

France have yet to achieve their ideal, committing too many errors and opting too often for safety first. But it is the way they wish to go. Lamaison, Glas and, crucially, Sadoury, from full back, lie in deep formation but have not distributed delicately enough those passes — "impud not violent" according to Boniface — which are so essential.

A quirk of playing at Wembley is that the player is provided with an illusion of vast space. This ought to suit the French. If they play as their instincts tell them.



Bateman: decision today

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

FOUR TOYOTA LAND CRUISERS TO BE WON



CARS FOR AN ACTION-PACKED LIFESTYLE

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to win one of four Toyota Land Cruiser Colorados, one of the best 4 x 4s around.

- COLLECT SEVEN TOKENS AND YOU COULD WIN:**
- a five-door Land Cruiser Colorado GX worth £27,874 on the road
 - a three-door Land Cruiser Colorado GS worth £21,039 on the road

We have two of each model to be won with one year's road tax plus a three-year 60,000-mile warranty. Full terms and conditions were published on Monday March 23. Prices are correct at time of going to press.

The high driving position of the Colorado gives excellent visibility, something you will appreciate on a mountain track or the school run. Power-assisted steering makes manoeuvring and parking easier. And on the open road you will appreciate the responsive 3-litre turbo-diesel engine.



For your nearest Toyota dealer, call 0800 777 555

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect seven differently numbered tokens from the 19 published in *The Times* between March 21 and April 11. Token 12 is below. You can enter our free prize draw as many times as you want. The second entry form will appear tomorrow. Each entry must be accompanied by seven differently numbered tokens (a bonus token is allowed). The closing date for entries is Monday April 20, 1998.

FEATURES OF THE TOYOTA LAND CRUISER COLORADO GS AND GX

Both models have: twin airbags, electric front windows, tilt adjustable steering column, power-assisted steering, 4-speaker Sony RDS radio/cassette. The GX has all the above plus: air conditioning, electronically controlled ABS, electric external mirrors, leather covered steering wheel, alloy wheels, and a 4-speaker Sony radio/CD player.



FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 10 Cincinnati 3; Chicago Cubs 10 Florida 3; Pittsburgh 4 Montreal 0; Houston 7 San Francisco 6; Colorado 3 Arizona 0.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 10 Kansas City 1; Tampa Bay 11 Detroit 8; Toronto 3 Philadelphia 2; Anaheim 4 New York Yankees 1; Boston 2 Oakland 0; Cleveland 9 Seattle 7.

BASKETBALL

SLOWESSER LEAGUE: Manchester Giants 93 Sheffield Sharks 85.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 112 Washington 91; Atlanta 103 Toronto 91; Cleveland 92 Detroit 80; Boston 98 Orlando 87; Milwaukee 105 Denver 100; Utah 98 Portland 85.

BOWLS

MELTON MONSIEUR: EBA national championship; Patric: Second round: S Stevens and I Bond (Essex) bt S Ellis and P Smith (Hampshire) 28-11; M and R Newman (Wiltshire) bt A Goodall and C James (Dorset) 18-15; M Tomlin and L Farry (Somerset) bt M Chandler and D Howitt (Cotswolds) 18-17; D Morgan and R Morgan (East Dorset) bt G Smyth and S Halmel (Bedfordshire) 25-4; D Wilson and J Pickett (Southampton) bt J Redford and C Burnaby (Somerset) 20-18; D and M Gillin (Hamp) bt G Fuller and J Haines (Cheshire) 22-18; Northants) 17-16; A Spraggall and G Grace (Hamp) bt M Johnson and J Clark (Berkshire) 18-16; C Palmer and J Lennon (Stanley) bt V Volkers and G Smith (Cyprien) 25-17; Quaker-triple: Stevens and Bond bt M and R Newman 22-13; Tomlin and Farry bt D and R Morgan 21-16; Wilson and Pickett bt D and M Gillin 20-17; M and Grace bt Palmer and Lennon 27-13.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Juventus 4 AS Monaco 1; Real Madrid 2 Borussia Dortmund 1.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest 3 Sheffield United 0; Queens Park Rangers 0 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rangers 3 Hibernian 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 1 Hartlepool 1; Bolton 3 Farnborough 0; Wrexham 0 Leigh RMI 1; First division: Bradford PA 3 Whaley Bay 0; Farsley Celtic 5 Bolton Town 2; Challenge Cup: Southwell, second leg: Gainsborough 2 Byth Spireans 1 (Gainsborough win 4-2 on aggregate).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:

First division: Charlton 4 Wimbledon 2; Luton 1 Southampton 1.

SCOTIA'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 1 Manchester City 0; Coventry 0 Port Vale 2; Huddersfield 5 West Bromwich 1; Middlesbrough 1 Leicester 3; Wolverhampton 0 Gillingham 1. Second division: Barnsley 2 York 2; Shrewsbury 1 Wrexham 0; Stockport 0; Barrow 4; Third division: South Shields 2; Westall 1; Burnley 3.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Millwall 1 Arsenal 1.

DR MARTIN'S LEAGUE: Midland division: FC Walsley 0 Grantham 1; Southern division: Walsley 0; Southern division: Walsley 0; Southern division: Walsley 0.

WINSTON LEAD RENT LEAGUE: First division: Shropshire 1 Farnham 1 (unofficially 2-0).

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: First division: Durham 3; Workington 1; Jarrow Roading 0; Gateshead 3; Hartlepool 1; South Shields 1; Ransborough 1; Saltburn 2.

COMPLETE MUSIC Hellenic League: Premier division: Hellen 8; Shorewood 1; Tuffley 2; Armonia 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowes 7 Great Waltham 1.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Northern division: Wolverhampton 0; Preston 2.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: south: Brook House 2; Amersham 1.

SCOREWIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chapperton 0; Taunton Harriers 2; Elmton 2; Torrington 0; Blackford 3.

LHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Tisbury 2; Spalding 3.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: South Korea 2; Japan 1 (in Seoul); Boca Juniors (Arg) 3; Mexico 1 (in Buenos Aires).

DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord 3; Goermond 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League Trophy: Semi-final (Under-16): Lancashire 3; Staffordshire 0. Full Trophy: Semi-final: Bradford 0; Barnsley 0.

GOLF

SANDWICH AND DEAL: Halford Howell Tournament: First Round: Edinburgh Academy bt King Edward's, Birmingham 4.5-5; Bradford bt Gillingham 3-2; Canby bt City of London 4-1; Felles bt Eastbourne 4-1; Liverpool bt Rugby 3-2; Chatterhouse bt Forest 4.5-3; Shorewood bt Frome 5-0; Wrexham bt King's 5-2; Cambridge 2; Clifton bt Curdie 3-2; Ampleforth bt Canford 4-1; Westcott bt Hursley 4-1; 1. St Mary's bt Reddy 3-2; Sherborne bt Barnby 2.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm) Conditions Runs to resort Weather (5pm) Last snow

AUSTRIA: Oberurgl 50 160 fair spring slush fair 7 2/4 (Good skiing in trees at Galsberg and Unterurgl)

FRANCE: Alpe d'Huez 40 260 fair varied fair fair 6 2/43 (Some good skiing; snow holding well. Vaullany area good)

DEUS ALPES: 20 290 fair varied snow cloud 5 2/43 (Some reasonable skiing on the upper runs above 2,000m)

VALE D'AUVERGNE: 25 230 soft varied slushy cloud 5 2/4 (Best skiing between 10,30am and 12,30pm above 1,800m)

ITALY: Livigno 119 153 fair varied snow cloud 5 2/43 (There are still some good skiing areas: Mottolina)

SWITZERLAND: Verbier 10 130 fair varied snow cloud 5 1/4 (Varied but enjoyable skiing; a little new snow high)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England 6; Staghorn 1 (at Oakwood)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 4 Los Angeles 0; San Jose 3; Pittsburgh 7; Detroit 2; Colorado 0; Montreal 4; Florida 3; Carolina 4; New Jersey 0; NY Islanders 4; Tampa Bay 3; Boston 4; NY Rangers 2; St Louis 6; Toronto 4; Calgary 3; Dallas 1; Vancouver 4; Edmonton 2; Phoenix 5; Anaheim 1.

NETBALL

TOUR MATCH: Australian Institute of Sport 37; England 46 (in Canberra).

REAL TENNIS

THE ORATORY: Tablitis Invitational: Double: Semi-finals: C Bray and Prince Edward bt J Howell and C Butler 5-3; M Gooding and M Brockbank bt A Philips and M Maloney 5-3. First: Ray and Prince Edward bt Gooding and Brockbank 5-3.

SNOKKER

PLYMOUTH PAVLIONS: British Open: First round: M Stevens (Wales) bt R Payne (Eng) 5-2; C Davies (Wales) bt J White (Aus) 5-3; K Burnett (Eng) bt W Jones (Wales) 5-3; L Walker (Wales) bt G Grimes (Eng) 5-3; J Jones (Eng) bt G Beagrie (Wales) 5-3; Herry (Scot) bt G Hearn (Aus) 5-0; M Bennett (Wales) bt S O'Connor (Ire) 5-1; D Gray (Eng) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-2.

SQUASH

LAMB'S CLUB, London: British Open: Men: Second round: P Johnson (Eng) bt A Hirst (Aus) 15-12; 9-15, 15-10, 15-8; G. Kher (Pak) bt B Davis (Aus) 15-12, 15-13, 15-11; R Eyles (Aus) bt M Cairns (Eng) 7-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-10, 15-10; J White (Aus) bt J Knapp (Aus) 15-13, 15-9, 7-15, 15-15, 15-8. Women: Second round: S Schone (Ger) bt J Joyce (NZ) 7-9, 9-4, 9-1, 9-2; L Johnson (US) bt M Moran (US) 6-2, 6-0, 3-1; Novotny (CZ) bt S Kwon (KOR) 7-9, 9-2; L Raymond (US) bt G Grimes (Eng) 7-7, 7-9; G (Ger) bt A Sanchez-Vazquez (ESP) 6-2, 6-0; 2-1; S Kher (Pak) bt B Davis (Aus) 15-12, 15-10; 1-11; N Stevens (Wales) bt N Swainston (Japan) 6-0, 6-2; M Selles (US) bt Pauson 6-2, 0-1, net, M de Swaen (SA) bt M (COT) 1-4, 7-8; M Gryboski (Pol) bt C Martinez (Esp) 7-5, 6-2; V R Pascual (Esp) bt N Taulber (Ffr) 7-5, 6-1.

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Family Club Cup: Second round: M Gilykowski (Pol) bt C Martinez (Esp) 7-5, 6-2; L Raymond (US) bt M Moran (US) 6-2, 6-0, 3-1; Novotny (CZ) bt S Kwon (KOR) 7-9, 9-2; L Raymond (US) bt G Grimes (Eng) 7-7, 7-9; G (Ger) bt A Sanchez-Vazquez (ESP) 6-2, 6-0; 2-1; S Kher (Pak) bt B Davis (Aus) 15-12, 15-10; 1-11; N Stevens (Wales) bt N Swainston (Japan) 6-0, 6-2; M Selles (US) bt Pauson 6-2, 0-1, net, M de Swaen (SA) bt M (COT) 1-4, 7-8; M Gryboski (Pol) bt C Martinez (Esp) 7-5, 6-2; V R Pascual (Esp) bt N Taulber (Ffr) 7-5, 6-1.

RACING RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Aintree

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

2.00 (2m 110yd hdl) 1, Falcato (A P McCoy, 7-2) 2, Dan Leader (7-6) 3, Fable Peak (11-2) 4, M and R Newman (11-2) 5, M and R Newman (11-2) 6, M and R Newman (11-2) 7, M and R Newman (11-2) 8, M and R Newman (11-2) 9, M and R Newman (11-2) 10, M and R Newman (11-2) 11, M and R Newman (11-2) 12, M and R Newman (11-2) 13, M and R Newman (11-2) 14, M and R Newman (11-2) 15, M and R Newman (11-2) 16, M and R Newman (11-2) 17, M and R Newman (11-2) 18, M and R Newman (11-2) 19, M and R Newman (11-2) 20, M and R Newman (11-2) 21, M and R Newman (11-2) 22, M and R Newman (11-2) 23, M and R Newman (11-2) 24, M and R Newman (11-2) 25, M and R Newman (11-2) 26, M and R Newman (11-2) 27, M and R Newman (11-2) 28, M and R Newman (11-2) 29, M and R Newman (11-2) 30, M and R Newman (11-2) 31, M and R Newman (11-2) 32, M and R Newman (11-2) 33, M and R Newman (11-2) 34, M and R Newman (11-2) 35, M and R Newman (11-2) 36, M and R Newman (11-2) 37, M and R Newman (11-2) 38, M and R Newman (11-2) 39, M and R Newman (11-2) 40, M and R Newman (11-2) 41, M and R Newman (11-2) 42, M and R Newman (11-2) 43, M and R Newman (11-2) 44, M and R Newman (11-2) 45, M and R Newman (11-2) 46, M and R Newman (11-2) 47, M and R Newman (11-2) 48, M and R Newman (11-2) 49, M and R Newman (11-2) 50, M and R Newman (11-2) 51, M and R Newman (11-2) 52, M and R Newman (11-2) 53, M and R Newman (11-2) 54, M and R Newman (11-2) 55, M and R Newman (11-2) 56, M and R Newman (11-2) 57, M and R Newman (11-2) 58, M and R Newman (11-2) 59, M and R Newman (11-2) 60, M and R Newman (11-2) 61, M and R Newman (11-2) 62, M and R Newman (11-2) 63, M and R Newman (11-2) 64, M and R Newman (11-2) 65, M and R Newman (11-2) 66, M and R Newman (11-2) 67, M and R Newman (11-2) 68, M and R Newman (11-2) 69, M and R Newman (11-2) 70, M and R Newman (11-2) 71, M and R Newman (11-2) 72, M and R Newman (11-2) 73, M and R Newman (11-2) 74, M and R Newman (11-2) 75, M and R Newman (11-2) 76, M and R Newman (11-2) 77, M and R Newman (11-2) 78, M and R Newman (11-2) 79, M and R Newman (11-2) 80, M and R Newman (11-2) 81, M and R Newman (11-2) 82, M and R Newman (11-2) 83, M and R Newman (11-2) 84, M and R Newman (11-2) 85, M and R Newman (11-2) 86, M and R Newman (11-2) 87, M and R Newman (11-2) 88, M and R Newman (11-2) 89, M and R Newman (11-2) 90, M and R Newman (11-2) 91, M and R Newman (11-2) 92, M and R Newman (11-2) 93, M and R Newman (11-2) 94, M and R Newman (11-2) 95, M and R Newman (11-2) 96, M and R Newman (11-2) 97, M and R Newman (11-2) 98, M and R Newman (11-2) 99, M and R Newman (11-2) 100, M and R Newman (11-2) 101, M and R Newman (11-2) 102, M and R Newman (11-2) 103, M and R Newman (11-2) 104, M and R Newman (11-2) 105, M and R Newman (11-2) 106, M and R Newman (11-2) 107, M and R Newman (11-2) 108, M and R Newman (11-2) 109, M and R Newman (11-2) 110, M and R Newman (11-2) 111, M and R Newman (11-2) 112, M and R Newman (11-2) 113, M and R Newman (11-2) 114, M and R Newman (11-2) 115, M and R Newman (11-2) 116, M and R Newman (11-2) 117, M and R Newman (11-2) 118, M and R Newman (11-2) 119, M and R Newman (11-2) 120, M and R Newman (11-2) 121, M and R Newman (11-2) 122, M and R Newman (11-2) 123, M and R Newman (11-2) 124, M and R Newman (11-2) 125, M and R Newman (11-2) 126, M and R Newman (11-2) 127, M and R Newman (11-2) 128, M and R Newman (11-2) 129, M and R Newman (11-2) 130, M and R Newman (11-2) 131, M and R Newman (11-2) 132, M and R Newman (11-2) 133, M and R Newman (11-2) 134, M and R Newman (11-2) 135, M and R Newman (11-2) 136, M and R Newman (11-2) 137, M and R Newman (11-2) 138, M and R Newman (11-2) 139, M and R Newman (11-2) 140, M and R Newman (11-2) 141, M and R Newman (11-2) 142, M and R Newman (11-2) 143, M and R Newman (11-2) 144, M and R Newman (11-2) 145, M and R Newman (11-2) 146, M and R Newman (11-2) 147, M and R Newman (11-2) 148, M and R Newman (11-2) 149, M and R Newman (11-2) 150, M and R Newman (11-2) 151, M and R Newman (11-2) 152, M and R Newman (11-2) 153, M and R Newman (11-2) 154, M and R Newman (11-2) 155, M and R Newman (11-2) 156, M and R Newman (11-2) 157, M and R Newman (11-2) 158, M and R Newman (11-2) 159, M and R Newman (11-2) 160, M and R Newman (11-2) 161, M and R Newman (11-2) 162, M and R Newman (11-2) 163, M and R Newman (11-2) 164, M and R Newman (11-2) 165, M and R Newman (11-2) 166, M and R Newman (11-2) 167, M and R Newman (11-2) 168, M and R Newman (11-2) 169, M and R Newman (11-2) 170, M and R Newman (11-2) 171, M and R Newman (11-2) 172, M and R Newman (11-2) 173, M and R Newman (11-2) 174, M and R Newman (11-2) 175, M and R Newman (11-2) 176, M and R Newman (11-2) 177, M and R Newman (11-2) 178, M and R Newman (11-2) 179, M and R Newman (11-2) 1

RACING: CYFOR MALTA HELPS PIPE TEAM LAND DOUBLE ON OPENING DAY OF AINTREE MEETING

National fences no obstacle to McCoy

By Chris McGrath THE mystique of Aintree owes much to names like Foinavon and Devon Loch, resonant of the role of chance and mischance on the turf. Before these fences, everyone stands equal. Such, at least, always used to be the idea. Cyfor Malta's success over the Martell Grand National course yesterday, however, confirmed that times have changed - but nobody should attribute this solely to the naming of the obstacles in recent years.



Cyfor Malta, centre, jumps impressively on his way to victory in the John Hughes Trophy at Aintree yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert Allsport

Cyfor Malta had been placed by just such advantage that McCoy could have lit a pipe on the run-in. That he does not break records merely through steering, however, had been demonstrated by the desperate success of Fataliste in the opening Seagram Top Novices' Hurdle. McCoy rode the colt with typical bravura, stealing a decisive advantage in the back straight - while Dawn Leader, tailed off with a circuit to go, made leisurely headway from the rear. He still had five lengths to

make up on the flat, but failed by just a short head as McCoy conjured every last kilojoule out of Fataliste. "He is a much better horse when you put a gun to his head," McCoy said of his positive tactics. Dawn Leader's backers might admit to similar sentiments concerning Carl Llewellyn, but they must acknowledge that the horse's clumsy jumping had rather tied his hands. That McCoy and Pipe are not quite invincible became evident in the Sandeman Maghull Novices' Chase.

When Champeuve showed he had not recovered from his gruelling Cheltenham win. Direct Route, spared that battle in the Arkle after falling at the seventh, had the reserves for Paul Carberry to make him look a good horse here. Carberry had confirmed himself the most naturally brilliant of steeplechase jockeys when clinging to Unguided Missile in the Martell Cup, his mount living up to his name with two mighty blunders. By contrast, Escartefigue put up an exemplary round of

jumping to beat Simply Dashing nine lengths. Dorans Pride seemed to feel his long season's toil, fading into fourth. Nonetheless, he has forfeited his status as the great green hope of Irish steeplechasing. Nothing is so costly in racing as hyperbole, but it is difficult now to restrain the excitement surrounding Florida Pearl, who beat Escartefigue at Cheltenham. The Irish horse is 9-2 favourite, from 6-1, with the sponsors for next year's Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Not a single eyebrow was raised when David Nicholson, Escartefigue's trainer, said: "I'd love to take on Florida Pearl again, on heavy ground. One would like to think of Arkle and Mill House. Let's hope I've got Arkle. We have got to dream of Gold Cups if he can do this to experienced horses as a novice." Nicholson, relieved that he had ended a run of 52 losers, has found nothing wrong with his horses but their luck. For most people, then, it still has a role to play.

Boss Doyle can rule the roost in novice test

AINTREE BBC2 2.35: A tricky race as those with the best form do not have conditions in their favour. Strong Promise, second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, is just as effective as this trip, but needs good or fast ground. Or Royal, consistent but without a victory this term, seems to find 2 1/2 miles stretching his stamina. He finished four lengths behind One Man in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. The Gordon Richards-trained grey also prefers better going but has won in the mud and is a tentative choice in a race best avoided for betting purposes. Merry



RICHARD EVANS Nap: Queen Of Spades (5.20 Aintree) Next best: Boss Doyle (3.10 Aintree)

Gale, who disappointed in the Martell Cup yesterday, and Opera Hat, a Naas specialist, have plenty to do. 3.45: King Torus, unexposed but a promising performer, can beat Lord Relic (Carl Evans writes). The selection has plenty of speed and is prone to idling in front and the trip will suit him. His point-to-point defeat by Earthmover last year now looks a good effort. Lord Relic loves this ground and should reverse Haydock placings with Fantastic Fleet on 9th better terms. Elegant Lord ran poorly at Cheltenham but will prefer today's softer ground. Blue Check would prefer firmer going, but proved himself over these fences when winning last year, while Viridian and Cavalero have each-way claims. 4.20: Unsinkable Boxer will be a short price. He ran out one of the easiest winners for years at Cheltenham to maintain his unbeaten record this season and a reproduction of that form will be too much for his rivals. Each-way alternatives include Bracy Run, who should benefit from the step up in distance, and the progressive Good Lord Murphy, who will relish the ground conditions. RICHARD EVANS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.00 RAINWATCH (nap), 2.35 One Man, 3.10 Ottawa, 3.45 King Torus, 4.20 Chino Bridge, 4.45 Khayrawani, 5.20 Glitter Isle.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.00 MARTELL MERSEY NOVICES HURDLE, 2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE), 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE), 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE), 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE), 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.55 BAKERS MAIDEN STAKES, 3.30 SLIP VENTURE, 4.05 MYSTICAL, 4.40 WITCHINDER, 5.10 Welcome Heights.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.20 EBF MAIDEN STAKES, 2.55 BAKERS MAIDEN STAKES, 3.30 SLIP VENTURE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.55 BAKERS MAIDEN STAKES, 3.30 SLIP VENTURE, 4.05 MYSTICAL.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.30 SLIP VENTURE, 4.05 MYSTICAL, 4.40 WITCHINDER.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.30 SLIP VENTURE, 4.05 MYSTICAL, 4.40 WITCHINDER.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.10 MUMM HILDAWAY NOVICES CHASE, 3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.50 ODDIBINS HANDICAP HURDLE, 5.20 PERIER JUIET HANDICAP CHASE.

RACELINE 0930 1684 COMMENTARY RESULTS AINTREE 101 201 SEDGFELD 102 202 LINGFIELD 103 203 6 ROUNDS 162 262 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 158

COURSE SPECIALISTS LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: G. Wrago, 9 winners from 34 runners, 26.5%. SEDGFELD: Trainers: S. Bell, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%.

2.45 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON CONCAST TELEVISION NOVICES CHASE (24.081; 2m 110y) (13) 1 2012 ADAMING BAY (F.P.S.) M. J. Ryan 7-11-5 ... B. Stoney 114

FREE BOOK Freephone Betting. FREE TIMEFORM HORSES TO FOLLOW (F.A.T.H.) 1998 BOOKLET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking \$20 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY - BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40

Blinkered first time AINTREE: 3.45 Master Crusader, Mr. Basher. SEDGFELD: 2.10 Stratton Gold, 4.30 Scramble, 5.00 City Girl, Father Eddie.

2.10 HARRY AND EDITH YOUNG NOVICES STEEP HURDLE (22.12; 2m 5f 110y) (16 runners) 1 945-50N OF SPAIN 2511 (F.P.S.) S. Clark 6-11-10 Miss R. Clark (D) ... P. McHenry (D)

2.10 HARRY AND EDITH YOUNG NOVICES STEEP HURDLE (22.12; 2m 5f 110y) (16 runners) 1 945-50N OF SPAIN 2511 (F.P.S.) S. Clark 6-11-10 Miss R. Clark (D) ... P. McHenry (D)

2.10 HARRY AND EDITH YOUNG NOVICES STEEP HURDLE (22.12; 2m 5f 110y) (16 runners) 1 945-50N OF SPAIN 2511 (F.P.S.) S. Clark 6-11-10 Miss R. Clark (D) ... P. McHenry (D)

2.45 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON CONCAST TELEVISION NOVICES CHASE (24.081; 2m 110y) (13) 1 2012 ADAMING BAY (F.P.S.) M. J. Ryan 7-11-5 ... B. Stoney 114

2.45 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON CONCAST TELEVISION NOVICES CHASE (24.081; 2m 110y) (13) 1 2012 ADAMING BAY (F.P.S.) M. J. Ryan 7-11-5 ... B. Stoney 114

FOOTBALL

Dauids keen to receive equal share of credit

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN TURIN

EDGAR DAVIDS thought about the question for a second or two. Everyone was raving about the man who had scored the hat-trick for Juventus that had practically assured them of a third consecutive appearance in the European Cup final. "What is it like to play with Del Piero?" a reporter had asked him. "What is it like to play with Davids?" he replied with a sneer.

Wednesday night at the Stadio Delle Alpi may not quite have been the time or the place for Davids's unique brand of self-aggrandisement. Alessandro del Piero had just produced a wonderful performance of sustained attacking invention and goalscoring in the semi-final, first-leg demolition of AS Monaco. It was natural that he should attract the praise.

In some ways, though, it is easy to understand the frustration of Davids. It was the recruitment of the combative, controversial Holland midfielder player from AC Milan in the winter that helped to turn the Juventus season around and has now made them favourites to retain their Serie A title and win the European Cup.

With Davids in the side, playing on the left of central midfield alongside Didier Deschamps, Juventus now have a marvellous balance that they did not possess before. The attritional tackling of Davids, his ability to break play up as well as to surge forward with the ball, is the ideal foil to the creativity of Zinedine Zidane and the quicksilver skills of Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi. It is because of Davids that this is a different Juventus side to the one that capitulated to Manchester United last October.

"Are we talking about Del Piero or are we talking about

me?" Davids asked. "We have a good team and Del Piero is a good player. But we have a couple of other good players, too. Everyone knows exactly what he has to do in his position. That is the important thing."

"I came here. I have brought speed, aggression and I have brought joy and a lot of skills. Everybody here has to work within the system but if you can bring something extra to the system that is even better. Of course Del Piero is good. We have got the best striker in the world here. Which one? Both of them."

Juventus must now be considered favourites to win the competition, the final of which is in Amsterdam on May 20. However, they will probably have to beat the other giant of European football, Real Madrid, to do it. Real, the Spanish champions, beat Borussia Dortmund, the European Cup holders, 2-0 on a night of controversy at the Bernabeu Stadium.

Dortmund yesterday lodged an official protest with Uefa, demanding that the first leg either be replayed or awarded to them after the match was delayed for 65 minutes when Real's notorious Ultra Sur supporters pulled down a set of goalposts before the match.

Four people were injured in the mêlée and replacement posts had to be brought from Real's training ground. Lorenzo Sanz, the Spanish club's president, has promised that the Ultras will not be allowed to stand in that part of the Bernabeu again.

Despite the power of Germany within Uefa, it is unlikely that Dortmund will be granted their wish for a replay. It is more feasible that Real will be punished with a heavy fine and then be allowed to go on to defend their lead in the Ruhr in a fortnight.



Prize Bull: the Wolves marksman celebrates another of the 300 goals that have helped him to write his own chapter of Molineux folklore

Bull happy to stay with the pack

Russell Kempson meets a boy from the Black Country whose name will be written forever in old gold

Club officials fussed around the reception area at Molineux, going about their daily business with admirable haste as players strolled in and out, smiling and relaxed. Workmen cleaned the impressive trophy cabinet in the corner as the uniformed doorman fought a losing battle trying to check everybody's credentials. Amid the hubbub, Danny Wilde, a 5-year-old handicapped Wolverhampton Wanderers fan, sat quietly, looking out for his hero.

He did not have to wait long. Steve Bull strode in, quickly checked his other appointments and then devoted his attention to young Danny. He chatted gently in his treacle-thick accent, signed autographs and posed for pictures. He stayed for ten minutes: long enough to make the dreams of a young child come true, short enough to avoid the embarrassment of not knowing what to say or what to ask next.

It is the side of Bull, the crop-haired Wolves and former England striker, that few

rarely see. His rampaging exploits may have generated many a sharp headline in his 12 seasons at the club, and could inspire further puns if he helps Wolves to beat Arsenal in their FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park on Sunday, his 300 goals in 536 matches might have earned him a place in Molineux folklore, yet in a world in which loyalty is an increasingly dirty word it is Bull's ordinariness, his approachability and quirky humour that have endeared him to the masses. Behind the goals and pugacious attitude lies a boy from the Black Country who will never forget his roots.

"It's nice, all the fuss the fans make," he said. "I like it, who wouldn't? It's probably one of the main reasons why I've stayed here so long. You can put so many smiles on so many people's faces just by doing something you enjoy. I

don't think I've changed over the years. I still drink at the same local, play cards for a quid, I'm still the same. "It's all about money these days, it's taken over the game. I don't blame anyone for staying at a club for six months and then moving on for £3 million. If I'd had the chance, perhaps I'd have done that, too, but I think I'd have probably hit myself on the back of my head if I did. I'm happy here, with the fans, the people, so why move?"

Bull, 33, has regrets. That the big-club move, when at his peak eight years ago, never materialised. That his experience of playing in the top flight is likely to consist of no more than one brief appearance as a substitute, when playing for West Bromwich Albion, in the old first division. And that his England career, comprising 13 caps and four goals, finished prematurely.

They are mere giggles, though, swiftly dismissed. "I'm financially secure," he said. "Money's never ruled me. Anyway, as long as I've got enough in my pocket for a meal with the missus or to take the kids out, I'm OK." He lives near Cannock, with his wife, Julie, his sons, Jack, 5, and Joe, 2, two chinchillas and King, Sam and Max, the German shepherds. "They're good guard dogs. I can tell you."

It is all far removed from Tipton, where he was born. Newey Goodman, his first Sunday league side, and Dorn Holdings, the building firm that he once worked for, picking up sand and cement, emptying lorries, 13 hours a day. He also toiled in a bed factory, glueing and screwing frames together.

Albion offered him a way out and, although his youthful

promise failed to materialise at The Hawthorns, he joined Wolves for £64,000 in 1986. As raging Bull becomes ageing Bull, he accepts that retirement is close. After fulfilling the remaining two years of his contract, he hopes to stay at the club either in coaching or public relations. "I'll keep playing as long as I can. I don't want to drop down the leagues," he said, "but there has to come a time when someone says: 'It's done, off you go.' I will respect that and the fans must, too."

PR would appear a natural progression. He passes on the stamps from letters, usually mocking, that he receives from Albion supporters to raise money for charity. He is also helping to generate funds for Callum Cook, a seriously ill 3-year-old son of a neighbour, to visit Disneyland Paris.

"Some of these kids haven't got much to live for," he said. "Whether it's a week or two years they've got left, it makes them happier for a day. It achieves something. Ten minutes of your time: it's nothing, is it?"



Dauids's aggression has been critical to Juventus's success

Halifax provide grounds for approval

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

HALIFAX Town will become the second successive team, but only the third in eight seasons, to be elevated to the Football League should they win the Vauxhall Conference. A League inspection team yesterday gave approval to The Shay, Halifax's ground. Halifax, relegated from the League in 1993, lead the Conference by ten points and are firm favourites to win the championship. Chris Hull, a League spokesman, confirmed yesterday: "Should Halifax win the Vauxhall Conference, they will be promoted to the Football League for next season."

In recent years Macclesfield Town, Kidderminster Harriers and Stevenage Borough have been denied promotion, despite being Conference champions, because their grounds

were deemed substandard. Macclesfield finally "graduated" last season. Forest Green Rovers, second in the Dr Martens League, have been told that The Lawn, their ground, is fit for the Conference, which, if the League stands by its position that Merthyr Tydfil, the leaders, will not be accepted, almost guarantees their promotion.

Merthyr, however, believe that a letter that arrived on the desk of Peter Hunt, the secretary, on Wednesday morning paves the way for a change of heart by the Conference. "The Conference told us that we were not acceptable because we had not been trading as a club for 12 months," Hunt said. "We will argue that point because,

although we had the name changed [a 1997 was added], it was a continuation of the club. We liaised with the Dr Martens League and the Football Association of Wales. There was never any suggestion of a new club. "The Conference said the decision was irrevocable and so it was not worth their while inspecting our ground. I have now received a letter saying they will inspect the ground next Monday. It will give us a chance to explain to them why we changed the name of the club. After a particularly long, dark week we can see some light at the end of the tunnel."

Hunt has advised Charles Stanley, the chairman, who took over last

summer when the club was threatened with closure, that Merthyr should await the outcome of the discussions before launching any appeal to the Football Association.

Peter Hunter, the Conference chief executive, said: "Our rules are there to be enforced. It's not fair on the clubs in the Conference, or indeed the Dr Martens League and the other feeder leagues, who have complied with them if we don't enforce them."

If the Dr Martens championship chase comes down to football, there is still all to play for. Both Merthyr, two points ahead, and Forest Green have seven matches remaining — and two are against each other: on Easter Monday at Merthyr and on April 29 at The Lawn.

CRICKET: HOLLIOAKE MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH HIS TEAM'S PERFORMANCE

England stay upbeat in defeat

FROM ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

THE hysterical crowd scenes after West Indies' frantic win in the second game of the Cable & Wireless one-day series on Wednesday spoke of blind relief that a gift had finally not been spurned. England could be excused for looking on with a certain smugness. They might have lost the game, but the events of the day will have convinced them that they are the better one-day side.

Adam Hollioake, the captain, expressed it succinctly. "We have played well," he said. "I can't think of anything we could have done better." Rare remarks from a beaten leader, but justified nonetheless.

The Kensington pitch began damp, after overnight rain, and to stay in the game after being inserted was an achievement. To come so close to winning it spoke of a team with bottomless character and self-belief. Given more equitable conditions in the three remaining games, England should win the series. Their cricket is more organised, they

bat with greater depth and purpose and bowl with greater flair. They also field like tigers. Nick Knight was correctly named man of the match for the second successive game because there would have been no contest, no drama, but for his resourceful 90 when conditions were capricious. Not for the first time, though, Matthew Fleming epitomised the spirit of this side with his constant involvement — 28 runs from 17 balls, three

wickets, a stunning catch and a run-out. Fleming is having the time of his life and, like his Kent colleague, Mark Ealham, he can begin making his plans for the World Cup next year.

That, of course, is what this and every other one-day jamboree in the coming 12 months is all about. England's separatist policy is now entrenched and will remain so. The one-day side bears increasingly little resemblance to its five-

day counterpart and, on Wednesday, only five members of the original Caribbean tour party were still in the dressing-room. It is another tour, a different venture entirely.

Later this year the division will be marked still more emphatically. In October, England are due to send a one-day team to Bangladesh even though the tournament coincides with the start of the Ashes tour. This may lead to two or three late arrivals in Australia, but, essentially, the two codes and their characters are drifting ever farther apart.

West Indies are catching on to this trend more slowly and have relied largely on their Test players. This may be about to change. Yesterday, Courtney Walsh asked to stand down from the remainder of the series. "I think the time has come to try some youngsters in one-day cricket," Walsh said. But if Wednesday proves to be his one-day farewell, he will remember it fondly. It was Walsh, the No 11 who had to come in with five balls remaining, who perkily stole the single to set up the win. "It was never in doubt," he grinned.

BRIDGETOWN SCOREBOARD

West Indies won toss	
N V Knight bow to Simmons	90
A J Stewart c Lamb D Walsh	33
B C Hollioake c and b Rose	16
G A Hick b Lowe	0
M R Ramprakash c Ambrose b Lewis	29
A J Hollioake run out	11
M A Ealham c Ambrose b Simmons	48
D R Brown b Simmons	21
M V Perera c Williams b Ambrose	28
R D B Croft not out	11
D W Headley b Ambrose	0
Extras (lb 2, w 9, nb 1)	12
Total (50 overs)	226
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-71, 3-72, 4-131, 5-154, 6-198, 7-208, 8-226, 9-257	
SCORING: Ambrose 10-0-44-2; Walsh 10-1-51-1; Rose 8-0-50-1; Lewis 10-0-40-2; Simmons 8-0-45-0; Hooper 4-0-39-0.	
WEST INDIES	
C B Lambert run out	26
P A Wallace c A J Hollioake b Brown	22
B C Lara c Ramprakash b Headley	24
S C Williams c Fleming b A J Hollioake	28
G L Hooper c Croft b Fleming	86

P V Simmons bow b Fleming 5
 R D B Croft not out 4
 R I Lewis run out 4
 A Rose c A J Hollioake b Fleming 3
 C L Ambrose c and b A J Hollioake 14
 C A Walsh not out 1
 Extras (lb 4, w 1, nb 2) 7
 Total (50 overs) 257
 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-54, 3-78, 4-211, 5-211, 6-221, 7-226, 8-236, 9-257
 SCORING: Brown 8-1-36-1; Headley 7-0-50-1; Croft 10-0-45-0; Ealham 8-0-29-0; Fleming 9-0-41-3; A J Hollioake 7-5-0-4-2.

West Indies won by one wicket.
 Man of the match: Knight.
 Umpires: B Morgan and E G Nicholas. TV replay umpires: H Moore, Referee: R S Madugalle (Sri Lanka).
 Series details: First match (Bridgetown), England won by 16 runs.
 Internationals to come: Third (Kingstown, St Vincent) April 4, Fourth (Bridgetown, St Vincent) April 5, Fifth (Port of Spain, April 6).

Toasting high that is an ace

SOME golfers might be puzzled by their inability to hole in one, but not me.

JOHN HOPKINS



Golf Commentary

For many of the 40 years I have been playing, I have been more preoccupied trying to prevent my stylish draw from degenerating into a wild hook than by the fact that I have not been able to hit the ball into the hole from a tee 150 yards away.

Furthermore, as it is well documented that many skillful golfers have never managed a hole in one, I felt that I, a bad golfer, was moving in exalted company. More often than not I was happy to reach the green. Hitting in one seemed so far beyond my compass I had not given it more than a passing thought.

And when I did I wondered why golfers consider it so much better to sink a well-struck iron on a par-three than to hole out a second shot on a par four, as John Huston did during the Players Championship in Jacksonville last week.

For that matter, why is a one on a par-three better than a two on a par-five? Why does an ace entitle a player to membership of a club, the right to wear a special tie and puff out his chest with pride? I once nearly holed in two on a par-five. My putt for an eagle was no more than six inches.

An albatross seems a rarer bird than an eagle and, thus, more meritorious.

There is no better sight in golf than a player trying his hardest and, as the object of the game is to take the least number of strokes on each hole, to hole in one represents the ultimate triumph. It does not matter who does it, whether it is the two journalists with whom I played when they did it, or Tony Jacklin, whose hole in one in the Dunlop Masters tournament at Royal St George's, Sandwich, in 1967 was the first to be televised. Costantino Rocca did it in

the 1995 Ryder Cup and so did Howard Clarke. When Nick Faldo's ball disappeared into the hole on the 14th at The Belfry in the singles of the 1993 Ryder Cup, I was standing on the tee and could see his excitement.

Whereas mine, and almost every other amateur's, was a fluke, Faldo's was the result for which he had been hoping, one that someone of his skill would expect every now and then. The odds against a leading professional holing in one are said to be 3,708-1. Faldo had tried his hardest on that stroke; it had ended in the hole. Nothing could be more deserved.

The 27 holes at the Amelia Island Plantation in northern Florida are far removed from The Belfry. Scenically, they are much better. The three loops of nine holes bend this way and that, often between enormous old oak trees adorned with moss. The 146-yard 9th on the OceanSide course was the 18th for our fourball last Monday — and for my partner and me it had, until then, been a black Monday.

Then it happened. A momentary doubt as to whether an eight-iron was enough club was dismissed as I hit the ball sweetly and straight. It would

be nice to say that from the moment it left my clubface I knew it was going in, but that would be untruthful. I bent down to pick up my tee just before the ball landed and looked up just in time to see it disappear. Witnesses reported it took one bounce forward and then spun sideways into the hole. That hook again.

In the clubhouse the details were noted by the club pro, who promised to send me a plaque commemorating the feat. Some celebrations began that night. Nothing drastic, you understand.

The proper ones will take place underneath the oak tree at the back of the Augusta National Golf Club at lunchtime on Tuesday, as contestants in the Masters flit to and fro from the course. To be able to celebrate my fluke on such a field of dreams is fortunate. Not to say expensive. If any reader can spare the time to drop by, I shall be delighted to pour them a drink. There is only one snag: they must have a Masters ticket to get in.

So there you have it. My duck has been broken. I have holed in one against odds said to be 42,952-1. I am confident it will not happen again. My hook is not quite under control. I will not order more drinks for the moment.

Wales likely to welcome Italians to Anfield

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WALES are expected to announce today that their opening European championship clash with Italy will be played at Anfield. The Football Association of Wales (FAW), though, has not decided where the other eagerly awaited home tie in their group, against Denmark, will be staged.

With the National Stadium in Cardiff being rebuilt, the FAW council met this week to discuss where to play their group matches, aware of the campaign being waged to have them all played in Wales, despite the fact that none of the three main grounds — Ninian Park (Cardiff), Vetch Field (Swansea) and the Racecourse Ground (Wrexham) — can accommodate more than 13,000 fans.

Gary Speed, the Wales captain, and John Harrison, the striker, last week stated that the players would prefer to keep the matches in Wales. Financial considerations come into the equation, though, the FAW having made only £100,000 from the Jamaica game. That figure could be as high as £500,000 if a major English ground is used for the match against Italy on September 5.

Duncan Ferguson could return for Everton in the match against fellow relegation strugglers Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane tomorrow. Ferguson, however, knows that he aggravates the injury to his left knee, he could be out for the rest of the season.

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, admitted yesterday that Ferguson, the team captain, has avoided most of this week's training in the hope he will be able to lead the side at White Hart Lane.

The match has great significance for both teams, who are just outside the relegation zone. If Barnsley win at Leeds United tomorrow, the losers at White Hart Lane could drop into the bottom three.

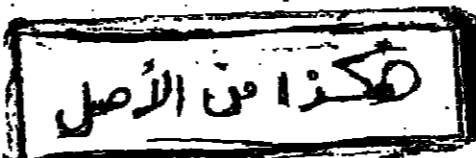
David Ginola, the Tottenham winger, is in the thoughts of Aime Jacquet, the France coach, for the World Cup finals, according to Christian Gross, the Tottenham coach. Gross contacted Jacquet to urge him not to ignore Ginola, who has been in good form, and was told the winger has a chance making the France squad.

Ginola, long out of favour, had virtually written off his chances of being selected, and has even signed up with the BBC to be part of their World Cup team.

Roy Aitken, the former Celtic and Scotland player, and Egil Olsen, the Norway coach, are in contention to take over from Terry Venables as coach of the Australia national team. David Hill, chairman of Soccer Australia (SA), said that Venables was almost certain to leave the position, but hopes he can be retained in an advisory role.

Preston North End have suspended Habib Sissoko, the French striker, following an incident after last week's game against Wigan Athletic.

Sissoko, who has been at Deepdale for six weeks, was allegedly involved in a scuffle with a team-mate. He claims he was racially abused and the Professional Footballers' Association has been called in.



SPORT IN BRIEF

Stevens breaks through

With the start of the Embassy world championship only 15 days away, Matthew Stevens can be forgiven for having his mind on his debut at the Crucible Theatre. Despite the handicap of wandering thoughts, Stevens reached the second round of the British Open. Despite the penultimate ranking tournament of the season, at Plymouth with a 5-2 victory over Karl Payne, highlighted by breaks of 104, 58 and 46, yesterday.

The most surprising result of the opening day was a 5-0 whitewash of Quinten Hann, Australia's leading player, by Drew Henry.

Nick Craig, national mountain bike and cyclo-cross champion, who came seventh in the opening round of the Grandig mountain bike World Cup competition last Sunday, has returned home to learn that he is a late entry for the 106-mile Archer Grand Prix road race at Beaconsfield this weekend.

Tracy Barrtram, returning to the England team after suffering a stress fracture of the ankle, scored 16 goals from 20 attempts as the touring side began its five-match visit to Australia with a 46-37 victory over the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra. The teams meet again today, with England facing an Australia under-21 side tomorrow and the senior national team on Sunday and Monday.

The University of Bath's newly built, Olympic-sized swimming pool, part of a lottery-funded sports training village and home to 12 national team members under the guidance of Ian Turner, yesterday became the first high-performance centre under a plan to improve Britain's fortunes in international competition. Turner will head the centre and his assistant, David Lyles, will become head coach of the university.

TENNIS: HENMAN AND RUSEDKI SPEARHEAD FOR DAVIS CUP PROGRESS

Britons prepare to pull rank

BY JULIAN MUSCAT TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GREAT Britain's Davis Cup team best resembles a coveted display of porcelain. Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman would grace many a nation's mantelpiece, but the gentleness of nudges could splinter its worth into thousands of tiny fragments.

Injuries to Henman and Rusedski consigned the team to defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe last year. The pair then returned in July to beat Ukraine in Kiev, thereby avoiding the spectre of relegation from EuroAfrican Zone Group One. Now back where they started last April, Great Britain entertain the same opponents in Newcastle. The winners will advance to the qualifying round of the World Group.

Given that Rusedski, world ranked No.5, and Henman, ranked ten places lower, are fit, nothing less than a convincing victory is expected. A fast carpet has been laid in the Telewest Arena to best facilitate the Britons' aggressive game. That same surface should work to the detriment of Ukraine's stalwart, Andrei Medvedev, a renowned clay-court specialist.

It was Medvedev who forced Rusedski to win the deciding rubber of five when the teams met eight months ago. He won his two singles handsomely, leaving Rusedski, who won the doubles rubber in tandem with Henman, to outgun Andrei Rybakko for overall victory. This time, Rybakko, no more than a competent player on the satellite circuit, opens the tie today against Rusedski.

Pessimists insist that the Davis Cup, in which individ-



Flying the flag: Henman and Rusedski face up to the renewed demands of national service in Newcastle yesterday

uals combine to represent their country, throws up surprises as the norm. However, defeat for Great Britain would be less of a surprise than a calamity. One possible source of weakness has been ironed out: both Rusedski and Henman maintain that their personal stand-off has been resolved.

The fact that the Newcastle site houses a solitary court has brought them together in practice. "Obviously we did have our differences but they are behind us," Henman said yesterday. "Having Greg be-

hind the team has given us a lot of confidence and it is safe to say [Great Britain] are now in the wrong division." David Lloyd, the team captain, emphasised the buoyant spirit within the squad. "Greg and Tim both want to be the best in the world," he said. "It can be difficult when both want the same position, but they have enormous respect for each other. The problem would arise if they didn't."

Rusedski and Henman playing together represents Great Britain's strongest doubles combination, although Lloyd deferred the decision yesterday. He nominated Henman and Neil Broad - silver medal-winners at the Atlanta Olympics, for the doubles tomorrow, but he can alter that combination up to one hour before the match. Indeed, Rusedski who has not played a doubles match for nine months, will probably sit it out if Great Britain establish a 2-0 lead today. Rusedski has played more than 30 singles matches this year and is expecting a rest in advance of the clay-court season next month.

ICE SKATING: BEREZHNYAYA AND SIKHARULIDZE OVERTAKE AMERICANS TO WIN WORLD PAIRS TITLE

Recovery leaves Russian on top of the world

ELENA BEREZHNYAYA, 20, and Anton Sikharulidze, 21, of Russia, won the world ice skating pairs title yesterday with a routine that included two solid triple throw jumps. Their only errors were a hand down on a triple toe loop by Berzhnyaya, who suffered a near-fatal head injury two years ago when her partner's skate blade pierced her skull, and an unstable landing by Sikharulidze.

Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, of the United States, who led going into the free section, rose to the challenge, performing an excellent triple twist and throw double axel, but a fall by Meno on the throw triple meant they had to settle for silver. The bronze went to Peggy Schwarz and Mirko Müller, of Germany. The field was depleted, with Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steiner, the champions

last year, not defending their title and Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen, the United States champions, withdrawing earlier in the week because of injury. Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev, the Olympic gold medal-winners, also failed to take the ice because Dmitriev is suffering from food poisoning. This meant that eight Olympic medal-winners are not competing in the championships.

The highlight of the evening for many was the performance of the Chinese couple, Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao, who finished fourth. The height on their throw moves and speed across the ice was phenomenal. They received a standing ovation. The British champions, Marina Poluliaschenko and Andrew Seabrook, of Swindon, who are making their debut at this level of competition, performed creditably and finished thirteenth.

The women's event begins today with the short programme. The Olympic silver medal-winner, Michelle Kwan, of the United States, starts as firm favourite.

HOCKEY

Hawks confident of success in play-offs

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

THE first division of the National League is to be reduced from 22 teams to 20 and six clubs will be in contention for two places available when the inter-league play-offs start at Milton Keynes today.

There are two pools: Eastcote, Peterborough Town and Robinsons make up pool A; Oxford Hawks, Harborne and Norton are in pool B. On Sunday evening, the winners of each pool will have claimed their places.

In the first of the matches today, Eastcote, the southern champions, will take on Peterborough Town, winners of the 16-nation world elite. It is judged by the rankings system, only the United States and Spain can boast a better-ranked duo than Rusedski and Henman.

Norton, who won the Northern League, are expected to make a strong challenge.

as will Harborne, Peterborough Town, with strong attacking resources, seem to have the best credentials in pool A.

Also on Sunday, the EHA Cup final between Cannock and Beeston takes place, preceded by the Trophy final between West Herts and Bowdon.

Clifton are taking a gamble in their EHA Women's Cup quarter-final against Trojans, the 1995 runners-up, on Sunday. Tammy Miller, the captain, admitted that, although her team have lost the past two finals on penalties, they have spent hardly any extra time practising the routine.

Miller said: "You can only practise technique and not a situation and it's been the pressure of the situation that has got the better of us in the finals against Ipswich and Hightown."

With two comfortable league victories over Trojans, Clifton should be confident of completing a hat-trick against the relegated Southampton club, but Miller said: "Two of our injured internationals, Lucy Culliford and Michelle Robertson, are doubtful and, in a one-off cup situation, you can never be quite sure what will happen."

BOWLS

Handy Cross eye title

THE departure of some of the more highly rated pairs from the national indoor championships at Milton Keynes has cleared the way for the title-holders, Alan Springle and Gary Grace, from Handy Cross, to meet Simon Stevens and Ian Bond, of Exonia, in the final today. The two pairs met in the semi-finals last year, Springle and Grace winning by one shot (David Rhys Jones writes).

Gerry Smyth and Steve Halmai, of Paddington, the winners in 1987 and 1988, were beaten, 25-5, by Dean and Russell Morgan, from East Dorset. However, the Morgans, who are unrelated, were ousted 21-19 by Mick Tomlin (who won with his son, Martin, in 1989) and Les Feary, from Boston.

Chris Palmer and John Leeman, of Stanley, were installed as favourites after they defeated the 1994 champions, Brian Vickers and Gary Smith, from Cyphers, 26-7. However, they then went out to Springle and Grace, 27-13. Springle, 59, joined Grace, 29, last year as a late replacement in the semi-finals last year, Springle and Grace winning by one shot (David Rhys Jones writes).

Stevens and Bond defeated the 1994 runners-up, Mike and Robert Newman, a father-and-son combination from Reading, 22-13 in the quarter-finals and booked their place in the final with a hard-fought 15-13 victory over Tomlin and Feary.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The expression "Elimination and Endplay" sounds pretentious but it actually describes quite a simple manoeuvre, as today's Refresher shows.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, Love all, IMPs, and a card layout with suits and ranks.

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of spades

West might well have made a take-out double of One Heart rather than showing his excellent four-card spade suit. He led out his top spades and declarer ruffed the third. Declarer drew trumps, then cashed the ace and king of clubs before playing a low club from both hands. Declarer had "eliminated" all his opponents' exit cards before throwing them in to broach the diamond suit for him. Where there had been a certain loser, now declarer had a good chance.

On the actual deal West won the queen of clubs and played a low diamond to East's queen and declarer's king. Declarer then played a diamond to his nine, thus avoiding a loser in the suit. Do you see how West could have done better? The way the play went declarer had no real chance to go wrong in diamonds. I

suppose he could have played East for queen-jack doubleton and played the ace on the second round but that would be extremely far-fetched. But suppose West switches to the jack of diamonds when he is thrown in. Now declarer may think he has the queen and jack (perhaps he has chosen the jack to try to be clever). He may win the king in his hand and play a diamond to the nine, thus still losing a trick in the suit.

Starting on April 17 I will be conducting a beginner's course in the Refresher column. It will be suitable for individuals or groups starting on their own, and will provide helpful material for those who teach their friends.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING section with words like SANGAREE, VISEVASE, FOISTY, VISOMETER and their definitions.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kramnik's wins

Although he turned in a somewhat modest performance in the elite tournament at Linares in Spain early last month, the Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik, who because of his giant size has occasionally been likened to a sumo wrestler of the chessboard, was determined to re-establish his reputation at the tournament in Monaco. Today's games see Kramnik winning twice in powerful style.

White: Loek van Wely Black: Vladimir Kramnik Monte Carlo rapidplay March 1998

Chess game diagram showing a Semi-Slav Defence position with moves listed for both sides.

White resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Jurek - Meyer, Berne, 1998. The black king is very open and White has various promising ways to prosecute his attack. However, he found a continuation that immediately won material. What did he play? Solution on page 50

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES WIN A CLASSIC FERRARI 328 GTB ENTER THE ARGENTINE GRAND PRIX TODAY. Includes details about the race, driver results, and a Fantasy Formula One 24-hour entry line.

Christopher Irvine finds Shaun Edwards in fighting mood

Raging Bull desperate to be let off the leash

Shaun Edwards embarks on his sixteenth league campaign tonight on the bench for Bradford and "brassed off" at the start of the Bulls' defence of their Super League title away to Huddersfield Giants. It is not a position he is used to or likely to tolerate for long.

To those who reckon that the game's most decorated player has nothing left to prove, the steady-eyed stare in reply speaks volumes. A similar blazing intensity can be expected whenever Edwards emerges at the McAlpine Stadium.

The reason given for his omission is a hamstring strain. Not that pain has stopped him before. The enduring image of Edwards remains from the 1990 Challenge Cup final, when he played for 70 minutes for Wigan with a depressed fracture of the cheek-bone and multiple fractures of the eye-socket after a Warrington opponent flattened him off the ball.

"I didn't want them to think they could hurt me. I was in a lot of pain, but it was only pain," he said later.

There is another theory: that Edwards has not fully settled at Bradford, his third club in nine months, after a season at London Broncos that heralded the end of 14 gilt-edged years at Wigan. Edwards admitted that he arrived at Odsal not knowing whether to follow his natural inclination to impose himself, or to stop, look and learn.

The latter approach prevailed until the Bulls were surprisingly beaten at Castleford in the Challenge Cup five weeks ago.

"At Wigan, I was the organiser, but I didn't want to storm into Bradford saying we should do this and that," he said. "The trouble in the Castleford match was that there were too many chiefs and not enough Indians. I felt afterwards that the coaching staff wanted me to take more responsibility on the field."

He began at London by making several substitute appearances, but once he settled he quickly tormented defences with his familiar tactical as-

luteness. While Graeme Bradley will combine with Robbie Paul at half back in the opening match, it is the instinctively creative pairing of Edwards and Paul that the Bulls presumably see as necessary in the longer term.

It is when Bradford supporters see the club resisting overtures from Wigan to resign Edwards, and his former club honouring him by inducting him into their new hall of fame, that they have wondered where his real loyalties lie. Edwards has also kept his home near Wigan and makes no secret of the fact that he would still be at Central Park had Eric Hughes, the former coach, allowed his request for a second day off each week to be in London with his former girlfriend, Heather Small, the singer with the group M People, and their newborn son, James.

Edwards said: "I'll always be a Wiganer at heart. I'm glad to see my old club doing well again and getting things sorted off the field. The club was totally mismanaged the last few years, but it was only pain," he said later.

"I'd probably have still been there if the present management were in charge because they're much smarter people, but you should never look back. Bradford fans are quite rightly sick of people going on about me and Wigan. I'm committed to the club. I've everything to prove here. A big attraction of joining the Bulls was the atmosphere their fans created at the Broncos last season."

Now 31, Edwards is often bracketed as a veteran, which clearly rankles, particularly as Allan Langer and Ricky Stuart, Australia's leading scrum halves, are both older. "People keep mentioning my age, but as long as you've got the enthusiasm, you can go on past 35," he said. "Our problem is a shortage of young talent. Great Britain didn't choose Martin Offiah last year because he was 31. Who cares if he's 41, as long as you pick the best team."

Not surprisingly, Edwards has his sights set on the Great Britain team for the home series against New Zealand in November. Despite being on the bench tonight, there is no containing the adrenalin surge on the eve of a new season. "There's a lot of pressure on Bradford to repeat what happened last year, but everyone realises the competition is going to be far sterner," he said.

"The first two Super League seasons, maybe the word 'super' was not apt. This year is different. Even teams two-thirds down the table look capable of beating the leaders. A lot of the players who tried rugby union and didn't like it are back. There's everything to prove."



Edwards contemplates the beginning of a new campaign in a new environment

Connolly pledges to resist call of the code-breakers

WIGAN Warriors are close to securing the medium-term future of one of the club's prime assets, Gary Connolly, in the face of a rival offer from rugby union and despite falling foul of the Super League's new salary cap.

The Rugby Football Union, impressed by Connolly's performances with Harlequins in 1996, is thought to have offered him a four-year deal as part of England's planning for the 1999 World Cup. The Great Britain centre is also wanted by Manly, the leading Sydney rugby league club, and was scheduled to begin a four-year contract with the Australian Rugby League in 14 months. He will soon put pen to paper on a six-month extension to his career at Central Park, however, tying him to the Super League until December 1999.

The new salary cap — preventing clubs from spending more than 50 per cent of their income on players' wages — could hit Wigan hard. They are at present 24 per cent over the limit and could lose up to £3,000 a month in central funding.

Officials are hoping to renegotiate the club's sponsorship deal with Tesco and expect a windfall from their appearance in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final next month.

Putting pen to the screen

The Write Stuff BBC2, 7.30pm Those who believe that writers are born and not made may be sceptical of this attempt by Nigel Williams to pass on tips of the trade to a creative writing class. But Williams has good credentials, being a novelist and playwright himself and an experienced interviewer of writers in his other role as television producer. Thanks to the archives he can supplement his own thoughts with those of a formidable cast of 20th-century literary figures and if nothing else the programmes are an opportunity to hear from such luminaries as P.G. Wodehouse, Evelyn Waugh and Edith Sitwell. Whether what they say is enough to turn an aspiring writer into an accomplished one is another matter. The three programmes cover the beginnings, middles and endings of novels and Williams stresses the importance of first sentences for pulling the reader into the story.

The Grand ITV, 9.00pm Tonight we say farewell to the staff and residents of the Manchester hotel, but they and the show will surely be back. The combination of in-house intrigues and fruitful borrowings from the social history of the 1920s is a formula that has provided consistently watchable fare and there is no reason why it should not be dusted down and used again. Meanwhile the current series bows out with a flourish as startling revelations for Mark McGann's charmingly unpleasant Marcus throw the very future of the hotel in doubt. There is also a surprising hitch for the upstairs-downstairs relationship between the boss's son Stephen (Ian Meredith) and the upwardly mobile chambermaid Kate (Rebecca Callard). On a less contentious note the christening of baby Charles finally arrives.

Rather Ted Channel 4, 9.30pm There was once an episode of Resonance which featured guest appearances from Ab Fab's Edina and Patsy but it is hard to recall such a crossover in a British sitcom. That changes tonight when Ted and Dougal watch a video of One Foot in the Grave and later, on a visit to the mainland, bump



Novelist Nigel Williams (BBC2, 7.30pm)

into Richard Wilson. That they are more thrilled to see him than the other way round is the basis of a splendid running gag — built around Victor Meldrew's catchphrase "I'm not a doctor, but I'm a nurse" — and sustained to the very last. Having enjoyed the joke, however, let us hope it is not catching, otherwise it will be a joke no more. Meldrew/Wilson apart, the episode offers the usual inconsequential tonfoolery with the usual inconsequential tonfoolery with the usual inconsequential Jack ending up in an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting and Mrs Doyle in a police cell. Do not ask, just watch.

Frasier Channel 4, 10.00pm Regular visitors to the Seattle sitcom will know that the Crane men are hopeless with women and that the psychiatrists, Frasier and Niles, are often in as much need of help as their patients. Put these two strands together and you have the essence of tonight's episode, though formulaic it is not. David Hyde Pierce's twittering Niles takes centre stage as he announces that he is trying to save his marriage and has employed a shrink to help him. This is the cue for a mistaken identity routine, which takes place in a darkened room and is a characteristically witty use of the usual skill. Meanwhile choreographer John Mahoney embarks on a date that backfires and Frasier adds his wopenry worth by recalling his divorce. The bachelor household is destined to survive for another day. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Kaleidoscope Feature: Joseph Heller Radio 4, 9.30pm I do not normally mention repeats but many readers find the Friday night repeat of this programme more accessible than the original Saturday evening transmission and, in any event, this is the last programme under the Kaleidoscope banner before the new schedules start on Monday. Heller is most interesting in this interview with Kevin Jackson, warming up quite a bit after a typically reticent start. I was particularly interested to hear him say that he had intended to be a playwright rather than a novelist because he writes dialogue better than he writes descriptive prose. He also puts into context the extraordinary success of Catch 22 and the way that its title became part of the English language far beyond literature.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Chris Moyles 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 The Essential Selection 8.00 Judge and Greville 11.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 11.30pm Radio 2's Essential Selection 8.00 Judge and Greville 11.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicoly Campbell 12.00 Midday with Neil 2.00pm Radio 5's 4.00pm Nationwide with Julian Winterson 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Alan Green's Sportsbook 8.30pm Friday Sport. David Coles presents coverage of the evening's sport. Plus Richard Dunwoody picks out the numbers and riders in tomorrow's Grand National at Aintree 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night with Richard Dainy 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00am Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00am Camrin Jones 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chelholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Messiaen (MacRabban, Thesis); Bach (Erbarme Mich, Matthew Passion); Paval (Introduction and Allegro) 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Purcell (Suite: The Double Dealer); Bach (Minuetto Variations on a Theme of Corelli); Mussorgsky (The Song of the Sea); Janáček (Suite for Strings); Haydn (Symphony No 83 in G minor, The Hen) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Elyse Ameling (5/6) 11.00 Sound by Night. Includes: Includes excerpts from Bartók (Two Heroic Ballads) performed by the Royal Philharmonic under Vernon Handley; Messiaen (Werther) performed by the Royal Opera under Orchestra Colin Davis; 8.15 Music Investigation (17) performed by the Monteverdi Choir under John Eliot Gardiner 12.00 Composer of the Week: MacMillan (5/5) 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Royal Albert Hall. Includes: Haydn (String Quartet No 3); Haydn (String Quartet in C, Op 75 No 3, Emperor) 2.00 The BBC Archival National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Recordings from the archive of music by Strauss, Sibelius and Stravinsky conducted by Vernon Handley, Mark Elder and Paul Daniel 4.00 Music Restored: A Secret Mass (1) 4.45 Music Machine, with Venty Sharp 5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Nigel Kennedy plays Kreisler and Bryn Terfel sings Handel

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today's 6.45 Today in Parliament 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's customary guest is Alice Thomas Ellis (1) 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Durley 10.00 News; Let Us Praise. A day in the life of prayer beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset 10.00 (LW) News; An Act of Worship 10.15 (LW) On the Edge 10.30 News; The Afternoon Show, with Ruth Wishart 11.30 The Natural History Programme. The second of two programmes from the Galapagos Islands. Julie Fitzgibbon investigates the problems now facing the unique and extraordinary wildlife found there 12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather 1.40 The World at One. Presented by Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Classic Serial: The Ladies' Paradise, by Emile Zola, dramatised in two parts by Stephen Wyatt. With David Krevier and Douglas Hodge (1) 3.00 News; The Afternoon Show, with Laurie Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope Special. Paul Allen and a panel of Kaleidoscope presenters and guests discuss the media's coverage of the arts and the arts 4.45 Short Story; How I Ended Up Alone, by Brian Cleeve, read by Tom Hughes 5.00 PM, with Carol English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.55 Weather

"The perfect setting for a well-seasoned Hen." Advertisement for Hen's Speckled Ale featuring an illustration of a hen and a bottle of ale.

SQUASH

Eyles struggles through

AFTER ignominious second-round defeats for two of their number, Australians yesterday ensured that their country would be represented in both the men's and women's semi-finals of the British Open championships at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for Football, Rugby League, and Rugby Union, including match times and locations.

Table listing radio frequencies for various stations: RADIO 1, RADIO 2, RADIO 3, RADIO 4, CLASSIC FM, TALK RADIO, and WORLD SERVICE.

Manic, macho motor men are a race apart

It's kind of a guy thing, I mean, you don't have to be mad to be a presenter on Top Gear (BBC), but it helps if you have a name with two 'r's in it where most people would only have one. That's how Quentin Wilson got the job. And that young one, Tiff Needell. Crazy name, crazy guy I guess. Tiff is short for something, but it sure won't be a girlie name like "Tiffany". It'll be something strong and masculine like "MasTiff".

Last night the guys did this really wild routine where they all pretended to be buying petrol, but they had to get it from a security van because it's so expensive these days! Quentin handed over his watch ("It is solid gold") for a litre. Tiff paid with gold ingots! Jeremy Clarkson (shouldn't that be Clarkson, by the way?) paid with a diamond with the Koh-i-noor diamond in it, and it only got him one gallon! Bonkers!

OK, so the show's not everybody's cup of anti-freeze. But if you're the kind of old dear who thinks a car is a motorised Bath chair, then you're not gonna want to see a review of America's new supercar, the Vector. Because you don't need 5.7 litres of supercharged Italian engine thrust up your backside so you can do 0-60 in four-and-a-half seconds in the Women's Institute car park.

But us guys love that stuff. And it's not because we are all pathetic fantasists who see ourselves pulling hot babes in our seat of bright red moulded plastic, which looks like a melted vacuum cleaner. honest.

Actually Jeremy (the one with the Peter Vector perm) thought the Vector was rubbish. It had the styling of a "Romanian power station" (pardon?), and handling it was "like wrestling a Russian shot-putter". At £100,000 he'd rather have a Ferrari 355 any day.

If this is getting tiresome, I assure you it is not nearly as tiresome as Top Gear. Quentin - the one with the ironic twisty smile and arched eyebrow combo - did a thing on small cars for young men and it was all based on their "pulling" power. Then the lads tested a range of cars with very low fuel consumption. What a laugh! One was like a "Wendy house" or a "wardrobe". Another had less b.h.p. than Jeremy's fridge!

Then we got the report from Daytona Bike Week and the endless shots of busty babes in fetish wear with big bare bums. The laddish jocularism is remorseless. I assume it targets geeky guys who buy titles such as *Which Spotter?* and *Kustom Normal Cars*. It certainly isn't aimed at normal folk.

There is an old saying that you should never watch thrillers when there's a "k" in the month, as they

might leave you feeling stale and listless. The funny spelling means it is set in Central or Eastern Europe and involves spies called Viktor, dank cellars, mad scientists with secret formulae and mountain-top eyries.

Happily Oktober, ITV's new three-partner, has succeeded in breaking away from these formulaic conventions because some of the foreign bits are set in Switzer-

land and, er, that's it. Actually there is another difference, which is that since the end of the Cold War, more villains are turning out to be multi-national corporations.

In this case it's a Swiss-based drug company. It doesn't want to take over the world yet, just make lots of money by controlling people's minds in sinister ways. But it seems to have similar security services to the KGB and can turn up at your house in the middle of the night in a fleet of four-wheel-drives with rows of floodlights above the windshield.

Evidently a spirit of liberal paranoia is abroad, and we can look forward to thrillers based on the covert operations of the Secret Intelligence Division of Coca-Cola and the Disney Corporation.

Normally I dislike the negative stereotyping of particular nationalities, but since the Swiss had for a while ruled the world, I'm not sure I'll have any rule excluding foreign visitors from their nuclear fall-out

shelters and have hoarded all that stolen Holocaust gold, along with the ill-gotten gains of the world's criminals and dictators, it is nice to see someone having a go at the muck-in-munching profiteers.

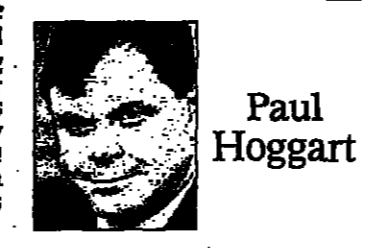
Stephen Tompkinson is an unlikely choice for an adventure hero. The star of *Ballykissangel* and *Drop the Dead Donkey* was great in the early scenes, when he was being an exasperated and ineffectual schoolteacher, but so far I am struggling to take him seriously as James Bond.

Tompkinson has been injected with a mind-bending drug, which has also been accidentally administered to a group of Russian soldiers. It turns them into telepathic pack animals, and means that if one victim feels a particular pain, they all do. They had been praying that none of them is forced to watch *Top Gear*.

Overkill, last night's *Horizon* (BBC2), was one of the oddest documentaries I have ever seen. Everything hinged on the age of a human skull found in a Cheshire peat bog and police attempts to find out if it belonged to the victim of a 30-year-old murder or of an ancient Celtic ritual sacrifice. This exercise in forensic pathology, spanning thousands of years, was accompanied by eerie shots of sinister bog-scapes and close-ups of the wounds on leathery, iron Age bodies.

The Celts, it seemed, would take a physically prominent man, execute him by the "threefold death" and throw him in the bog to appease the gods and bring prosperity. The Government should seriously consider reviving this practice to boost our flagging manufacturing exports. I recommend they start with this bunch of fit guys who present a car programme.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (78319)**
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (46593)
9.00 Good Living (936968)
9.25 Kilroy (T) (4737116)
10.05 Style Challenge A couple looking forward to a day at the Grand National receive a makeover (7068683)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (504608)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (963820)
11.35 Real Rooms Revamping the interior design of a Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield (4561864)
12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (2815883)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (3207116)
12.35 One O'Clock News (T) and weather (4180)
1.30 Regional News (T) (7792715)
1.40 The Weather Show (8495845)
1.45 Neighbours Toadie's cunning plan to nail Jacinta backfires (T) (9233999)
2.10 Ironside A baby becomes a vital witness in a case involving a would-be plane-killer. Raymond Burr stars (T) (927262)
3.00 Lion Country (8777)
3.30 Playdays (175222) 3.50 *The Littlest Pet Shop* (171508) 4.10 *Dennis the Menace* (283561) 4.35 & K Friday. Last in series (T) (8063880)
5.00 Newsworld (T) (5283828)
5.10 Blue Peter (T) (2576749)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (722338)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (70)
6.30 Regional News (T) (22)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (4086)
7.30 Top of the Pops presented by Zoë Ball. With Prince Buster, Ian Brown, Sash, Louise, 911, Savage Garden and Run-DMC with Jason Nevins (T) (26)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses (T) (T) (222)
8.30 A Question of Sport Ally McCoist and John Partoll are joined by Gavin Hastings, Dominic Cork, John Woyack and Susan Robn. Chaired by Sue Barker (T) (2241)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) and weather (983)
9.30 The Firm (1993) Tom Cruise heads an all-star cast as a bright Harvard law graduate who gradually begins to realise the high-class company he's been headhunted to work for is controlled by the Mafia. Also starring Gene Hackman and Holly Hunter. Directed by Sydney Pollack (70461) 9.30 *Grand Slam* (9036) 10.30 *FILM: The Firm* (74577) 1.00am *FILM: The Haunting of Secilliff Inn* (9341384) 2.25 *News* (287398) 2.30 *BBC News 24*
12.00 The Haunting of Secilliff Inn (1994) Supernatural thriller, starring Ally Sheedy, William R. Moses and Lucinda Weast. A movie with his wife to a quiet house overlooking the sea. Directed by Walter Kierland (T) (515346)
1.25am Weather (2753758)
1.30 BBC News 24

- 6.10 am Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity (4984883)**
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8805357)
7.15 Teletubbies (T) (2345970) 7.40 *Captain Caveman (T)* (913011) 8.00 *The Really Wild Show (T)* (46574) 8.30 *Mr Benn* (8131845) 8.45 *The Record* (4967864) 9.15 *Wonders of the Wild* (8145674) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (535854)
10.30 Give Us the Moon (1944, b/w) Comedy set in postwar Soho with Margaret Lockwood, Peter Graves and Vic Oliver. Directed by Val Guest (8684626)
12.05pm The Season Blackpool's illumination ceremony (9225593) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (75574) 1.00 *Funnybones* (6177083) 1.05 *Bananaman* (61779154) 1.10 *The Art and Antiques Hour (T)* (559661)
2.10 Racing from Alntrave Coverage of the 2.35, 3.40, 3.45 and 4.20 races (22316154)
4.45 Tennis and Figure Skating Davis Cup tennis from the Newcastle Arena. Great Britain take on Ukraine. Plus action from the men's free programme in the Figure Skating at the World Championships in Minneapolis (9436864)
7.30 The Write Stuff (1/5) Nigel Williams offers advice to budding writers (48)
8.00 Coast to Coast Janet Street-Porter aims to cross the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons accompanied by cricketer Robert Croft (T) (8048)
8.30 Gardeners' World Exotic phormiums and spiky yuccas; Andy Hall's famous twin herbaceous borders (T) (7393)
9.00 Blackadder II Edmund and Lord Melchett are embarrassingly kidnapped by a marauding German master of disguise with designs on taking over the English throne. With Rowan Atkinson and Miranda Richardson (T) (7425)
9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Kinnick's Lauren Laverne, Math Priest of Doggy, comedian Jeff Green and singer-songwriter Tom Robinson are the guests on the irreverent music quiz (T) (95338)
10.00 I Ruled the World Satirical panel game with Graeme Garden, Jeremy Hardy and guests. Hosted by Cive Anderson (40390)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (261357)
11.15 Figure Skating Highlights from Minneapolis (922116)
11.55 Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard Notley (T) (147704)
12.25am Comedy Nation Comedy sketches (6745103)
12.55 Weather (4866384)
1.00 Learning Zone: Teaching Today (97538) 3.00 *Geography 1* (86994)

- 8.00am GMTV (1844357)**
9.25 This Morning (T) (9638241)
9.30 Vanessa (T) (9129393)
10.10 This Morning (7158259)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (293088)
12.30 News (T) and weather (86448)
1.00 Wish You Were Here? (T) (43048)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (52929)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2306661)
2.45 WALKS: Get Gardening (T) (948338)
2.45 Garden Calendar (T) (948338)
3.15 News (T) (246116)
3.20 Regional News (2678357)
3.25 Rumble and Jim (2659680) 3.35 *Tinucio* (8924222) 3.45 *Peddington Bear* (9915609) 3.50 *Tom and Vicky. Last in series* (9966574) 4.00 *Zzap!* (744574) 4.15 *Humancans* (T) (2829380) 4.40 *Crazy Cottage (T)* (9910715)
5.10 A Country Practice (1169609)
5.40 News (T) and weather (814970)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (T) (438169)
6.25 WALKS: Wales Tonight (205203)
6.25 HTV Weather (832777)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (90)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (T) (9154)
7.30 Coronation Street Alma is shocked by her latest discovery (T) (74)
8.00 Airline Passenger officer Pat Byrnes applies for a place on the stewardess-training course; and BJ confronts two passengers who have consumed too much alcohol (T) (5574)
8.30 The Bill A girl's body is found on the common (T) (4806)
9.00 The Grand Marcus discovers some shocking facts on the day of his son's christening. Kate (Rebecca Callard) and Stephen (Ian Meredith) suffer a setback (T) (7406)
10.00 News (T) and weather (44116)
10.30 Regional News (384357)
10.40 Dharma and Greg The FBI run a routine check on Dharma's father, sending her into a panic (T) (244999)
11.10 Friday Night Fever A team party in Romford, Essex (T) (703612)
11.40 Renegade (563834)
12.00am Pop Down the Pub (2468926)
1.10 War of the Worlds (T) (274707)
2.05 Not Fade Away (T) (532029)
3.00 Collins and Macconie's Movie Club (T) (8059278)
3.25 Murdoc, She Wrote (8142636)
4.15 Coach (4206810)
4.35 ITV Nightcentre (8510074)
5.00 Coronation Street (T) (T) (93704)
5.00 News

- 1.00pm A Country Practice (43048)**
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5991796)
2.45-3.15 Our House (948338)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1169609)
6.25-7.00 Central News (205203)
10.40 Central Weekend Live (7024135)
12.15am God's Gift (435891)
1.15 Pop Down the Pub (2721278)
1.50 Robocop (9394926)
2.40 SFX (9489742)
3.05 World Football (8550549)
3.30 Planet Mirth (24460520)
3.55 Vanessa (526292)
4.35 Central Jobfinder '98 (7486076)
As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.30 Illuminations (6105118)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5991796)
2.45-3.15 Westcountry Update (948338)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1169609)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (87319)
10.30 Westcountry News (375603)
10.45 Dharma and Greg (186661)
11.15-11.45 Friday Night Fever (183574)
11.45 Renegade (386390)
As HTV West except:
12.15-12.30 News and Weather (6105118)
1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (43048)
2.45-3.15 Put it to the Test (948338)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1169609)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (87319)
11.40 Charlie Grace (563834)
As HTV West except:
2.45-3.15 Save Your Bacon (948338)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1169609)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (205203)
Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (31203)
9.00 FILM: The Golden Age of Buster Keaton (8494574) 10.45 *Australia Wild* (864864) 11.15 *Toys for the Boys* (1355999) 11.30 *Springhill* (3086) 12.00pm *Ricki Lake* (74357) 12.30 *Sesame Street* (93970) 1.00 *Spot Methrin* (6556319) 1.15 *Tomos Y Tanc* (9355757) 1.30 *Cow on the Frontline* (7736777) 1.45 *FILM: The Sweet Smell of Success* (8054796) 3.30 *Collectors' Lot* (96) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (13) 4.30 *Countdown* (15)
5.00 Pump (7932)
5.30 TV Dinners (67)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (488883)
6.10 Home (908665)
7.00 Pabot y Cwm (935661)
7.25 Y Chwyl Rhyll (130845)
8.00 Gair's Fet (3116)
8.30 Newyddion (5951)
9.00 Trif Chwair (5048)
10.00 Brookside (110999)
10.35 Father Ted (236970)
11.05 TFI Friday (498574)
12.05am Planet Football (7475907)
1.10 King of the Hill (457736)
1.40 Pond Life (9314384)
1.55 FILM: Winter Kills (380636)
3.35 FILM: Back Room Boy (7292891)
4.55 Sesame Street (8175758)

- 6.00am Sesame Street (T) (94357)**
7.00 The Big Breakfast (31203)
9.00 The Golden Age of Buster Keaton (1875, b/w) Bill Scott provides the commentary for this tribute (8494574)
10.45 Australia Wild (T) (854884) 11.15 *Toys for the Boys (T)* (1355999) 11.30 *Springhill (T)* (3086) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (74357) 12.30 *am I Dream of Jeannie* (93970) 1.00 *Little Lunch (T)* (34390) 1.30 *A Little Routine* (77388425)
1.40 The Brits (1949, b/w) with Robert Taylor as a US government agent investigating the smuggling of nuclear secrets in the Caribbean. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (T) (53848864)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Household manuals and domestic gadgets (T) (96)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (13)
4.30 Countdown (T) (8064319)
4.55 Ricki Lake (4317636)
5.30 Pet Rescue In the last of the series, the RSPCA try to find a new home for a cockerel and his two companions (T) (67)
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans talks to Ronan Keating and Dennis Wise. With music from Busta Rhymes and Hothouse Flowers (78861)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (522777)
7.55 The Political Slot (338280)
8.00 The Real Holiday Show (T) (T) (3116)
8.30 Brookside Max and Susannah mark the anniversary of their children's deaths. Katie is shocked by Jacqui's revelation (T) (5951)
9.00 Ellen: Hello, Dalai Lama and Peter go on a spiritual retreat (T) (2593)
9.30 Father Ted: The Mainland A trip to the mainland always leads to trouble and Ted is deeply nervous at the prospect. Richard Wilson makes a guest appearance (T) (80406)
10.00 Frasier: The Maris Counsellor Niles, under the care of his therapist, is convinced his marriage can be saved (T) (7508)
10.30 King of the Hill (T) (518777)
11.05 The Adam and Joe Show (T) (T) (79888)
11.35 TFI Friday (T) (114390)
12.00am Pond Life (T) (T) (822051)
12.55 Planet Football (T) (T) (9370838)
1.55 Winter Kills (1979) with Jeff Bridges as the brother of an assassinated American president who implicates his father. Directed by Robert Boyle (360636)
3.35 Back Room Boy (b/w, 1942) with Arthur Askey. Wartime comedy directed by Herbert Mason (346278)
5.30 The Clinkers (1863182)
5.40 The Herbs (8127297)
5.55 Sesame Street (8175758)

- 6.00am Sesame Street (T) (94357)**
7.00 The Big Breakfast (31203)
9.00 The Golden Age of Buster Keaton (1875, b/w) Bill Scott provides the commentary for this tribute (8494574)
10.45 Australia Wild (T) (854884) 11.15 *Toys for the Boys (T)* (1355999) 11.30 *Springhill (T)* (3086) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (74357) 12.30 *am I Dream of Jeannie* (93970) 1.00 *Little Lunch (T)* (34390) 1.30 *A Little Routine* (77388425)
1.40 The Brits (1949, b/w) with Robert Taylor as a US government agent investigating the smuggling of nuclear secrets in the Caribbean. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (T) (53848864)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Household manuals and domestic gadgets (T) (96)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (13)
4.30 Countdown (T) (8064319)
4.55 Ricki Lake (4317636)
5.30 Pet Rescue In the last of the series, the RSPCA try to find a new home for a cockerel and his two companions (T) (67)
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans talks to Ronan Keating and Dennis Wise. With music from Busta Rhymes and Hothouse Flowers (78861)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (522777)
7.55 The Political Slot (338280)
8.00 The Real Holiday Show (T) (T) (3116)
8.30 Brookside Max and Susannah mark the anniversary of their children's deaths. Katie is shocked by Jacqui's revelation (T) (5951)
9.00 Ellen: Hello, Dalai Lama and Peter go on a spiritual retreat (T) (2593)
9.30 Father Ted: The Mainland A trip to the mainland always leads to trouble and Ted is deeply nervous at the prospect. Richard Wilson makes a guest appearance (T) (80406)
10.00 Frasier: The Maris Counsellor Niles, under the care of his therapist, is convinced his marriage can be saved (T) (7508)
10.30 King of the Hill (T) (518777)
11.05 The Adam and Joe Show (T) (T) (79888)
11.35 TFI Friday (T) (114390)
12.00am Pond Life (T) (T) (822051)
12.55 Planet Football (T) (T) (9370838)
1.55 Winter Kills (1979) with Jeff Bridges as the brother of an assassinated American president who implicates his father. Directed by Robert Boyle (360636)
3.35 Back Room Boy (b/w, 1942) with Arthur Askey. Wartime comedy directed by Herbert Mason (346278)
5.30 The Clinkers (1863182)
5.40 The Herbs (8127297)
5.55 Sesame Street (8175758)
9.00 Ellen: Hello, Dalai Lama and Peter go on a spiritual retreat (T) (2593)
9.30 Dermot Morgan stars (9.30pm)
9.30 Father Ted: The Mainland A trip to the mainland always leads to trouble and Ted is deeply nervous at the prospect. Richard Wilson makes a guest appearance (T) (80406)
10.00 Frasier: The Maris Counsellor Niles, under the care of his therapist, is convinced his marriage can be saved (T) (7508)
10.30 King of the Hill (T) (518777)
11.05 The Adam and Joe Show (T) (T) (79888)
11.35 TFI Friday (T) (114390)
12.00am Pond Life (T) (T) (822051)
12.55 Planet Football (T) (T) (9370838)
1.55 Winter Kills (1979) with Jeff Bridges as the brother of an assassinated American president who implicates his father. Directed by Robert Boyle (360636)
3.35 Back Room Boy (b/w, 1942) with Arthur Askey. Wartime comedy directed by Herbert Mason (346278)
5.30 The Clinkers (1863182)
5.40 The Herbs (8127297)
5.55 Sesame Street (8175758)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellites. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.920775 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
6.00am 5 News Early (T) (2341086)
7.00 WideWorld (3/5) (T) (1017628) 7.30 *Milkshake* (5559970) 7.35 *Winnie's House* (T) (812338) 8.00 *Havakazoo* (T) (8506661) 8.30 *Doppeldean Farm* (T) (8507932)
9.00 Espozone (922067) 10.00 *Hairy Hunters* (T) (7429583) 10.30 *Sunset Beach* (T) (2818721) 11.10 *Lezza* (8334777)
12.00 5 News (T) (8518048) 12.30pm *Family Affairs (T)* (T) (1422338) 1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (T) (1016999) 1.30 *Sons and Daughters* (1421609) 2.00 *Burke's Law* (7420222) 3.00 *100 Per Cent Gold* (8192574)
3.30 Perfect People (1968) with Lauren Hutton, Penny King and Priscilla Beaulieu. A multi-aged couple try to recapture their youth through cosmetic surgery. Directed by Bruce Seth Green (2625885)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (2459608)
5.30 Was It Good For You? (T) (6900628)
6.00 100 Per Cent (8990241)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (8681693)
7.00 5 News (T) (8517893)
7.30 Wildlife SOS Animals rescued at Leatherhead's rehabilitation centre include a comatose, a ferret, an injured fox and some baby robins which need hand feeding (T) (6887777)
8.00 Fame and Fortune: Joan Collins (T) (8192303)
8.30 Was It Good For You? A trip to Turkey (8112338)
9.00 The Mistress (1987) with Victoria Principal and Kerri Keane. Drama about a woman whose life is turned upside down when her married lover dies. Directed by Michael Tuchman (8940461)
10.50 Bring Me the Head of Light Entertainment (5539909)
11.25 Before the Night (1993) with Ally Sheedy and A Martinez. Thriller about a woman's search for the man of her dreams. Directed by Talia Shire (8760268)
1.20am Weeds (1987) Drama with Nick Nolte, Lane Smith and William Forsythe. A prisoner forms a theatre group for his fellow inmates. Directed by John Hancock (4413414)
3.25 Girl on the Run (1952) Crime thriller with Eileen Dalton. Directed by Richard L. Bare (84710094)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (280297)
5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (9103704)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
SKY 1
 7.00am Street Sharks (92941) 7.30 *Games World* (1852312) 7.45 *The Simpsons* (31563) 8.15 *Donah* (833281) 8.40 *Home* (95719) 9.00 *Amazin' World* (7432) 11.00 *Clay Aislinn* (94793) 12.00 *Murphy's Law* (81661) 12.30pm *MIA'SH* (24894) 1.00 *Canada* (23119) 2.10 *Sally Jessy Rawlin's* (4432) 3.00 *Jimmy Jones* (48870) 4.00 *Opera* (3477) 5.00 *Star Trek: Next Generation* (899) 6.00 *Walker* (574) 6.30 *Home* (95719) 7.00 *News* (9574) 7.30 *The Simpsons* (4828) 7.30 *Real TV* (5086) 8.00 *Highlander: The Series* (89532) 9.00 *World's Funniest Videos* (92319) 10.00 *Fraser* (92319) 11.00 *Star Trek: Next Generation* (7651) 12.00 *Late Show* (7520) 1.00am *Law and Order* (68801) 2.00 *Long Play* (845182)
SKY BOX OFFICE
 Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0800 800888. Each film costs £2.99 per evening.
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28) *The Crucible* (1986)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 80) *Eddie* (1990)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) *The English Patient* (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) *In Love and War* (1996)
SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
 6.00am *Lincoln* (1987) *The Children's Crusade* (1988) (5896661) 7.45 *Lil' Crisco* (1987) *Operation Dumboville* (1987) (3287087) 8.40 *Back to the Backwoods* (1974) *10.55 Sense and Sensibility* (1995) (9791612) 11.00pm *Home* (1983) (2892864) 3.00 *Memories of Me* (1998) (99922) 5.00 *Lil' Crisco* (1987) *Operation Dumboville* (1987) (2174715) 6.45 *Sense and Sensibility* (1995) (9791612) 9.00 *Memories of Me* (1998) (99922) 11.30 *A Woman's Secret* (1987) (70577) 1.30am *Star Trek: Voyager* (2627656) 2.40 *The Planet* (1992) (18758) 4.40 *Back to the Backwoods* (1974) (660574)
SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
 6.00am *Home Comes Mr Jordan* (1940) (27119) 8.00 *Grizzly Adams* and the Treasure of the Bear (1985) (86425)

- 10.00 Bachelor Flat** (1982) (62222) 12.00 *Different Kinds of Christmas* (1989) (58048) 2.00pm *Bedtime Story* (1941) (58445) 4.00 *Nightmares Alley* (1947) (6949) 6.00 *Grizzly Adams* and the Treasure of the Bear (1985) (86425) 8.00 *Aladdin* (1992) *Home* (1983) (2892864) 10.30 *Amazin' World* (7432) 11.00 *Clay Aislinn* (947



TENNIS 49
Henman happy to be teaming up with Rusedski

SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 3 1998

RUGBY LEAGUE 50
Edwards desperate for chance to prove himself again



Lee and Howey to miss Cup match

Dalglish dealt double blow for semi-final

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THOSE who felt that Newcastle United were over the worst of their season after the resignations of Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd may have cause to reconsider during the days ahead.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, has attempted to play down the significance of the semi-final, but without success. No amount of weary caution alters the fact that Newcastle ought to beat opponents from the Nationwide League first division with something to spare.

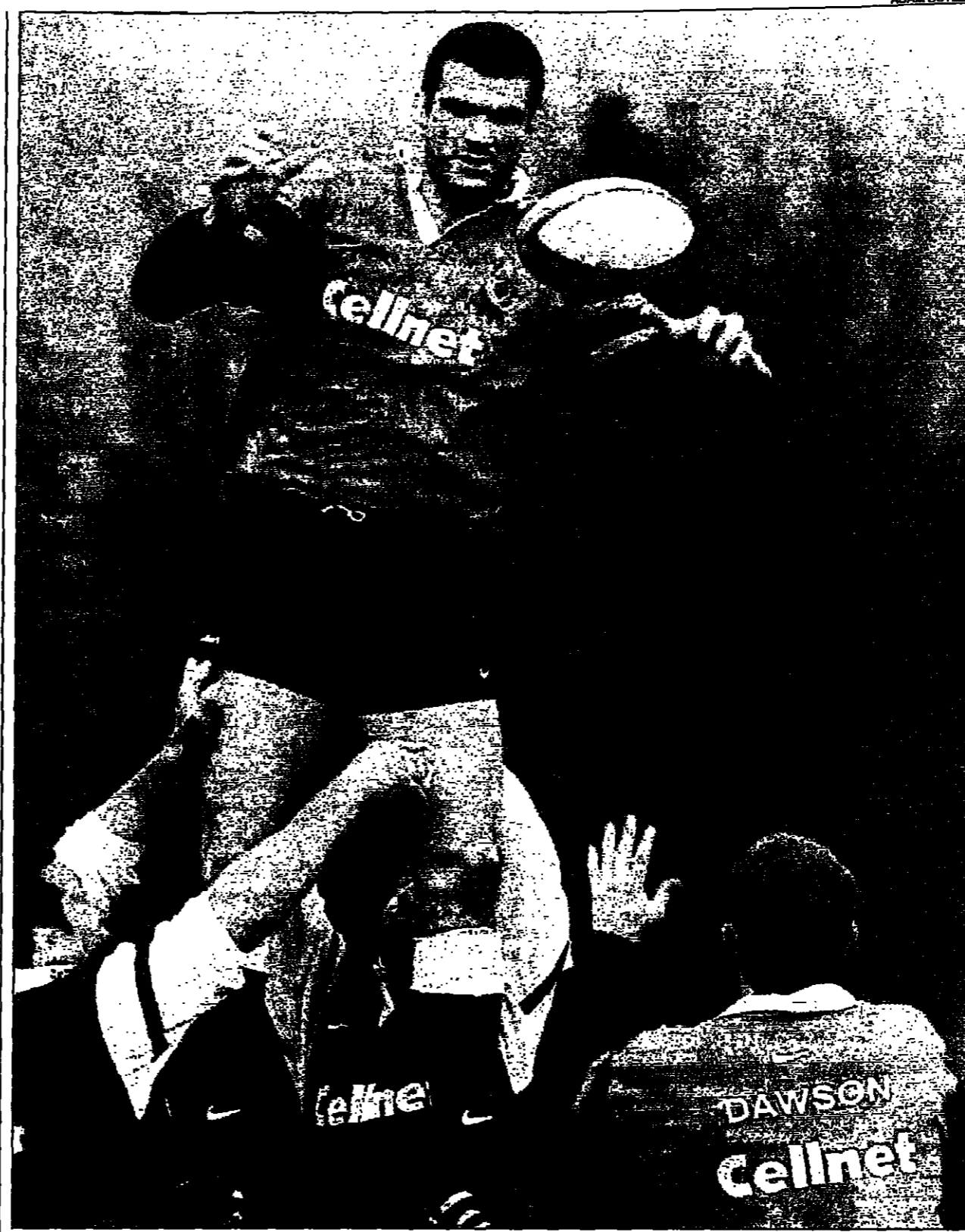
24 years ago and the sheer novelty of a big day out would smother criticism of Dalglish for the next six weeks.

Trust planning £200m Wembley rebuilding

THE English National Stadium Trust has won its bid to buy Wembley Stadium and will now launch plans for a £200 million redevelopment.

40,000-seat stadium. Tom Wheatcroft, a lifelong City supporter, has held detailed talks with club officials about the site, although its location has not been specified.

The players do not have anything to prove to anybody. If they are good enough to get us this far, then they are good enough to take that next step. I want to get this game out of the way before thinking about what might happen next.



Johnson and Dawson fine-tune their lineout routine during training with the England squad yesterday

England sights on longer term

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S attempt to win a fourth triple crown in succession, by beating Ireland at Twickenham tomorrow, will be no more than a step along the road towards parity with rugby union's world leaders.

the more significant of the two matches that will close the 1998 championship. French prospects of a first back-to-back grand slam are very real whereas England - who could be champions in the event of a Wales victory - keep their sights firmly on the long term.

a style they are comfortable with. They will pose any side problems. Ireland, who lost Ross Nesdale yesterday morning with an ankle injury - Allen Clarke takes his place as replacement hooker - arrived in London in realistic mood.

the Irish Rugby Football Union, he would be delighted. ENGLAND A (v Ireland A, at Richmond, tomorrow): Y Simpson (Newcastle), S Brown (Richmond), P Mansell (Harlequins), S Ravenscroft (Saracens), D Chapman (Richmond), J Lewsey (Gloucester), P Richards (London Irish), D Gammie (Newcastle), P Greening (Gloucester), J Millard (Bath), R Fidler (Gloucester), C Gillies (Richmond), R Jenkins (Harlequins), R Hullon (Richmond), B Sumner (Saracens).

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.



Lee: driving force

Loyalty brings Brown just deserts

Events at the World Cup in June may be beyond its control, but the Scottish Football Association has succeeded in bending the future to its will.

Kevin McCarra applauds a fresh contract for the Scotland manager

Roxburgh with the senior side. As such, he has amassed comprehensive experience. The SFA has described the new contract as a reward for Brown's efforts, but it is the ruling body that should feel grateful.



Advertisement for 'The Experts Who've Been Forecasting the Future for 20 Years'.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement.

UP FOR THE CUP Keith Curle talks to Oliver Holt advertisement.

Handwritten notes on the right margin: 'week', 'water', 'leave', 'will', 'fall'.